



ELECTION '97: no one's pulling our strings

THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,224

WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY 1997

WEATHER: Wet and windy; mountain blizzards in north

40p

THE TABLOID

Good news about bad moods

THE TABLOID

Fashion: why size doesn't matter

NEWS

Tufnell: 'I didn't smoke cannabis' PAGE 2



Miss S at the High Court yesterday, where she is seeking a judicial review

Photograph: James Horton

Ms S, forcibly cut open to deliver her baby: the doctor's dilemma

Patricia Wynn Davies
Legal Affairs Editor

The conflict between the rights of a mother and her unborn child will be scrutinised in a test case likely to become a cause célèbre over the rights of pregnant women to choose to refuse medical intervention.

The case spotlights the dilemma faced by doctors when women refuse treatment, which has led to a growing trend of judges forcing mothers to undergo unwanted Caesarean operations.

The planned judicial review by a 29-year-old south London woman follows a decision by a social worker to section her under the 1983 Mental Health Act because of her refusal to accept treatment for pre-eclampsia, a condition involving high blood pressure.

After she was transferred from a mental to a general hospital, doctors secured an emergency court order giving the go-ahead for treatment, including a Caesarean, without the patient - identifiable only as Ms S - being legally represented.

The operation was carried out several hours later when the woman, who was 36 weeks pregnant, gave birth to a daughter, now aged 10 months.

The woman's experience is the latest instance of judges authorising Caesareans against a patient's will, provoking growing anxiety among groups promoting improved care and choice in childbirth.

She said outside the High Court: "I was prepared to take the risk that both of us would die for principles I feel very strongly about. It is a matter of public concern that hospitals can use underhand means to force patients to have treatment which they have quite clearly stated they don't wish to have."

Ms S is seeking permission for a review, claiming that a London Borough of Merton social worker, Louise Collins, wrongfully applied to two doctors under the Act for her admission to a mental hospital, that she was wrongfully detained by the National Health Service trusts running Springfield Hospital and St George's Hospital, Tooting, and unlaw-

fully denied access to a court or a mental health tribunal. She also claims that she is the victim of sex discrimination.

Ms Collins had been contacted by a local GP after Ms S refused treatment for pre-eclampsia, which can require an urgent Caesarean in very severe cases, although he warned her that she was risking her own death and that of the unborn child. Ms Collins said in her report, extracts of which were read to the court yesterday, that Ms S "had little interest in her own survival and certainly none in the survival of the baby".

She also talked of punishing her former partner, with whom she no longer had a relationship, and said that she hoped he would feel guilty if she died. When told that she and the baby would probably die, she had said, "so be it". She had indicated more than once that "a dead baby would be a solution as she in no way wanted it", the court was told.

While the judge, Mr Justice Stuart White, adjourned the case yesterday, it is expected to return for hearing by a special-

ist judicial review judge within a few weeks.

Judy Crompton, secretary of the feminist's professional group Positive Care in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, said: "There seems to be a view that if a woman is pregnant that gives other people rights over her person and her body."

British courts have fought shy of expressly suggesting that the rights of the unborn child should override those of the mother, but they have in effect treated them as at least equal. The theme running through a series of rulings, beginning in 1992, is that a woman has no right to take herself or her unborn child to destruction by refusing consent for a Caesarean, although the operation itself carries risks.

Ms S specifically indicated her opposition to intervention in writing, expressly told the hospital authorities that she wanted to challenge her detention and had asked for the court order to be faxed to a solicitor. Had she secured access to a lawyer she could have applied for a writ of habeas corpus.

Leading article, page 13

Top tax inspector found guilty of taking bribes

Graham Ball

Michael Allcock, the maverick Inland Revenue investigator, was found guilty of taking bribes "on a breathtaking scale" by an Old Bailey court yesterday.

Allcock rose to become one of the country's top tax inspectors but over a five-year period he banked more than £150,000 in cash as bribes, mostly from Middle Eastern businessmen. In a trial that lasted four months the Old Bailey jury was told that the former section leader from the elite SO2 tax investigation office in London - which recovered an estimated £100m in unpaid taxes between 1989 and 1992 - became a law unto himself.

John Black, for the prosecution, said: "This public official

took bribes on a scale which was quite breathtaking, from extremely wealthy Middle Eastern businessmen based in London. They bought him off and in exchange he enabled them to avoid investigation into their tax affairs."

After his arrest in 1992 police raided Allcock's home in Colchester, Essex, and searched for details of his financial transactions over the preceding five years. They discovered that he had 11 bank accounts and six credit cards. They found that over this period he paid off £57,807 in credit card debt and that a further £91,390 was paid into his bank accounts.

Frequently, the court was told the cash was paid in the form of £50 notes. Jurors were told that this money allowed him

to live a lifestyle well above that provided by his Civil Service salary of £45,000. The court heard of his taste for fine wines and Jaguar cars and of how he told colleagues that legacies from his wife's relatives had funded his free-spending habits.

Allcock, 47, denied 11 charges of corruption but after deliberating for seven days the jury found him guilty of seven. In addition to accepting the cash bribes, Allcock was also found guilty of corruptly accepting the services of a prostitute, Michelle Corrigan.

In his defence, Allcock had told the court that the blonde escort girl had become a shoulder to cry on when his wife became ill with breast cancer. His counsel, Anthony Arledge QC, described the rela-

tionship between Allcock and Miss Corrigan as similar to the one in the *Pretty Woman* film.

Allcock claimed that the affair developed from one of client and prostitute to one where he was able to refer to the ex-model as his "soulmate". Hisan Alwan, 56, an Iraqi-born oil trade consultant from Knightsbridge in central London, was found guilty with Allcock on a charge of providing the services of a prostitute.

Allcock was also found guilty of accepting a £22,000 all-expenses-paid holiday from an American businessman, Ara Oztemel, who was investigated by Allcock's team and found to be liable for £2m back-tax.

Mr Black told the court: "His arrogance was such that in 1992 he went on a holiday with



his family, the accommodation and general expenses paid in the way of bribes. The holiday involved a cruise to Bermuda, accommodation at

New York's Plaza Hotel and flights on Concorde.

Following the scandal of the Allcock case, the Inland Revenue has revised the way it operates and the old special office functions have been absorbed by a new Inland Revenue Special Compliance Office, which employs 420 staff in offices in London and the regions and tax settlements involving millionaire businessmen are now subject to closer scrutiny.

Yesterday a spokesman for the Inland Revenue said: "We are investigating disciplinary proceedings against several inspectors. We had to wait for the outcome of this case before taking matters further."

Allcock and Alwan will return to the court today for sentencing.

QUICKLY

Victim's prowlers

The foster parents of Billie-Jo Jenkins, the teenager who was murdered in her back garden, revealed yesterday that they had been trying to move home because of concerns about prowlers prior to the attack. page 3

Racism row

Andre Markgraaff, South Africa's national rugby coach, resigned last night following the broadcasting of a tape on national television in which he apparently called black rugby officials and politicians "fucking Kafirs". page 12

Nursery standards

Nearly half private and voluntary nurseries fail to reach government standards in some way, says an inspectors' report published yesterday. The findings of the first official audit of private nurseries provoked a political row, with Labour asking why only two private nurseries had been refused money under the Government's nursery voucher scheme. page 8

Channel 5 news

Britain's new Channel 5 will rely on nightly films, a new-style soap opera and American imports, it was announced. page 5

91 Tories revolt against gun curb

Fran Abrams and Colin Brown

More than 90 Tory MPs voted against the Government last night in the biggest revolt in this parliament. The rebellion against plans to crack down on handgun ownership was unsuccessful because ministers had the support of Labour.

Five former Cabinet ministers voted against the Government. John Redwood, Michael Jopling, John MacGregor, John Biffen and Tom King joined the Tory rebels and seven Liberal Democrats, 12 Labour MPs and three Ulster Unionists. The Government won by 394 votes to 115 after winning the backing of the Labour leadership, despite the fact that 91 Tories voted against it.

In a debate on the Firearms Amendment Bill, introduced after the Dunblane massacre, the

Home Secretary, Michael Howard, had to rely on opposition support to reverse changes made after a rebellion by the gun lobby in the Lords. Peers voted earlier this month to allow owners of 22 weapons to keep their guns at home rather than in clubs so long as they were "disassembled" in advance. Under the Lords' amendment, only certain parts of the guns would have had to be kept in the clubs.

The change was one of three forced through by pro-shooting peers. The other two extend compensation for gun dealers forced out of business as a result of the law and pay compensation for gun clubs that are forced to close. A fourth defeat by peers, that the Bill should require the creation of a police national computer register of firearms licences, has already been accepted by ministers.

Plan for Nato-Russia force

Christopher Bellamy
Defence Correspondent
Sarah Helm
Brussels

Nato and Russia should form a joint military brigade, the US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright told Nato foreign ministers yesterday.

The proposal is the firmest expression yet of a determination to make Russia feel it has a special relationship with the West and allay fears about Nato enlargement. But it also shows that the strident attacks on the alliance's enlargement in Moscow are finding their mark.

The Secretary of State emphasised Nato's determination to take in new members from Eastern and Central Europe as soon as possible. She asserted: "Russia will have a voice but Russia will not have a veto."

Since the end of the Cold War, a special relationship between Nato and Russia, known as "16 plus one", has evolved.

But Nato has refused to entertain the idea of a Russian veto over Nato decision-making.

Ms Albright suggested troops from one or more of Nato's 16 nations, and from Russia, should live, work and possibly fight together in a single, multinational brigade. It is a radical suggestion, intended to dispel suspicions in Moscow that Nato is a hostile organisation. "I would hope that it would eventually have a genuine purpose... and not be a show-case kind of thing," she said.

Ms Albright's suggestion and a proposal for a Nato-Russian accord are part of a strategy to woo Russia before the Madrid summit in July, but neither looks particularly convincing. Although the US is determined to push Nato expansion forward, the obstacles remain real.

Russian officials have reacted strongly to Nato's plans to expand to embrace East European countries and last week mounted a war of words against

Nato's Secretary-General, Javier Solana, as he toured the former Soviet republics of Moldova, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

But opposition is also building from other quarters, with press comment in the US and Europe increasingly hostile to the idea. It is clear Ms Albright faces an uphill struggle.

In her first speech to Nato since her appointment as Secretary of State, she said Nato's vision of a joint Nato-Russian council "would promote a regular dialogue on majority security issues, reach concerted decisions whenever possible, and seize opportunities for joint action". Mr Solana said he hoped Russia and the alliance could seal a new relationship at a special summit ahead of the Madrid summit.

Nato also agrees to Russian demands for changes in the negotiating terms of the conventional arms treaty (CFE), to reassure the Russia that Nato

has no intention of stationing forces on the territory of its new member states in the East.

Diplomats last night responded positively to Ms Albright's suggestion. A Russian airborne brigade of 1,500 troops has been deployed in northern Bosnia for more than a year, and has been working under the control of the US headquarters in Tuzla. In November last year Russian and US troops worked together to prevent a large scale incursion into Serb territory by armed Muslims.

Nato sources said a joint Nato-Russian force would not be out of the question. There are, however, problems caused by the different ways Russian and Nato units are organised. Ms Albright was due to arrive in London last night. But the toughest part of the European leg of her trip comes on Thursday, when she flies to Moscow.

Six problems, page 10
Letters, page 13
Portrait, page 14



9 770851 946436

THE BROADSHEET
Business & City 18-21
Comment 13-15
Portrait 14
Foreign News 10-12
Gazette 16
Home News 2-9

Leading Articles 13
Letters 13
Obituaries 16
Shares 20
Sport 22-26
Unit Trusts 17

THE TABLOID
Arts 6-7
Arts reviews 27
Crossword 30
Finance 18
Law 22
Listings 20-21

Theatre 4
Travel 24
TV & Radio 31,32
Weather 30
Your Money 12

هَذَا مِنْ أَلَصَل

news

significant shorts

Death of hospital doctor sparks Aids scare

The sudden death of a junior doctor working at a Devon hospital prompted an Aids scare yesterday. The Royal Devon and Exeter Healthcare NHS Trust confirmed the doctor died last week.

"As far as the Trust is aware, the cause of death has not been established," a statement said.

The Exeter coroner's officer said a post mortem examination had been carried out on the doctor, who joined the staff on 5 February, but the cause of death was unknown. The Trust would make no comment about speculation that the doctor may have been infected by the HIV virus.

However, Exeter's prospective parliamentary Conservative candidate, Dr Adrian Rogers, himself a GP said he had been told that a doctor from overseas had died "and is likely to be HIV positive". Dr Rogers said yesterday that the source of his information was a medical one, and though uncorroborated, was "highly likely to be accurate".

"The local hospital has confirmed only his tragic death, but patients are being informed," said Dr Rogers. He added that he had written to the Secretary of State for health suggesting that if the death was from the HIV virus or Aids, it would be sensible for all doctors arriving in this country from Aids-prevalent areas to be tested.

Grobbelaar 'no chance' with goals

Goalkeeping supremo Bob Wilson yesterday told a court hearing match-fixing allegations that there was not the "slightest hint" that Bruce Grobbelaar had behaved improperly or suspiciously in Liverpool and Southampton games he had studied. He also said he had seen nothing untoward in 19 videos featuring the former Wimbledon keeper Hans Segers.

Mr Wilson, the ex-Arsenal and Scotland keeper and trainer of England's top goalkeeper David Seaman, explained goalkeeping techniques and talked the Winchester Crown Court jury through goalmouth incidents in five soccer matches involving Mr Grobbelaar.

He said Mr Grobbelaar had no chance with any of the goals put past him in Liverpool's 3-0 defeat at Newcastle in November, 1993 or their 3-3 draw with Manchester United the following January.

Gardiner loses High Court battle



Sir George Gardiner lost his legal battle to remain an MP yesterday when a senior High Court judge ruled that his local constituency association did have the right to de-select him.

The MP was seeking a declaration that Reigate Conservatives had no power to vote to oust him and their decision was therefore void. He also wanted an injunction restraining the association from adopting a new prospective Conservative candidate for the Surrey constituency. But Sir Richard Scott, the vice chairman, said there was nothing in the rules of the constituency association which barred them from the de-selection process at a general meeting.

"There is no contractual right of a prospective candidate precluding the association from de-selecting him and selecting someone who has become a more desirable candidate. The rules of the association are part of the democratic process to put an MP into Parliament. The notion that a candidate has contractual rights is to my mind unacceptable," he said.

Muddle led to soldiers' deaths

Muddle and errors led to two British soldiers being killed by an artillery blast during a training exercise in Canada nearly three years ago, an inquest was told yesterday. The Derby court heard that the men's trench took a direct hit from a 155 shell.

Royal Lancers corporal Robert Hawkesley, 29, from Toton near Nottingham, received head injuries, and 25-year-old Corporal Martin Bailey from Devon suffered fatal blast injuries at the training site in Alberta in June 1994.

The men's families were in court to hear evidence that they died almost immediately. A military police investigation uncovered a series of mistakes, including misunderstandings over gun patterns, inaccurate orientation and contradictory regulations, the inquest heard.

Thames to stay a working river

The dwindling number of working Thames wharves in London were yesterday protected from development by Government, in an attempt to keep the river functioning as a transport artery and stop them all being turned into office blocks and flats.

Councils whose borders include the 32 specified wharves from Hammersmith in the west to Newham in the east must consider the need for protecting these wharves when they draw up their development plans. They must refer any proposals for alternative development on them to the Secretary of State for the Environment.

Nicholas Schoon

people



Lifetime of laughter: Bernard Cribbins and Sir Harry Secombe at St Paul's Church, Covent Garden, after a memorial service for the late actress Beryl Reid (Photograph: David Cheskin)

Smoke is without fire, says cricketer facing drug claim

Two left-arm spinners made the headlines on New Zealand television last night. While Daniel Vettori, 18, was the toast of the country for his monumental efforts in trying to win the Christchurch Test for the Kiwis, Phil Tufnell was in the news for alleged off-the-field activities.

Almost immediately after receiving a jumbo of bubbly for winning Test Match Special's Champagne Moment for his run out on Saturday, Tufnell was publicly defending himself against suggestions that he had been asked to leave Bardell's, a city-centre restaurant, the previous evening, after being caught smoking an illegal substance in a disabled lavatory.

The England tour manager, John Barclay, yesterday backed the cricketer, saying: "I am well aware of the allegations made about Phil Tufnell, and I would add that they are very serious allegations."

"I have spoken to Phil at length, and very frankly, and I am completely satisfied with his assurances to me that these allegations are without foundation."

Tim Lamb, chief executive of the English Cricket Board confirmed that, as far as the board was concerned, Phil

Tufnell would not be facing any action over the claims. "Phil has categorically denied the allegations. I assume there is some mischief making going on," he added.

But Janette Rossiter, who works at Bardell's, said: "We had to do something about it when someone was smoking a joint in the one of the toilets."

"One of our staff managers followed him and waited outside. He was then asked to leave, and the three of them did so after paying their bill."

"They had been drinking and laughing but when he left he was clearly not happy about things and he did dramatic bows all the way to the door."

"That meant the whole restaurant area became aware of what was happening. An English family apologised for him and said he was not representative of England. I feel a bit sorry for him, but he was being a prat."

Tufnell, who was not required to bat in England's four-wicket victory, made light of the affair, saying: "I find it extraordinary. It makes me laugh, it's ridiculous, mate. I'm probably going for a few beers tonight - I'm looking forward to it."

Andy Farrell

Gandhi dynasty's hopes wrapped in Nehru's gown

Priyanka Gandhi, 25 (right), is the one to watch in the latest generation of India's most powerful dynasty. She got married last night, wrapped in the same pale pink cotton sari that Jawaharlal Nehru spun by hand for his daughter, Indira, to wear on her wedding day.

Neither marriage ceremony was as ordinary and unprepossessing as the simple cloth. This time, the bride had elite Black Cat commandos in attendance, because she is both the granddaughter and daughter of assassinated prime ministers and, by government decree, must be guarded round the clock by men with guns.

The bodyguards had been a constant throughout her unlikely six-year romance with her new husband, Robert Vadra, 28, a costume jeweller and avid disco dancer from the New Delhi's middle class suburbs.

This was not an arranged marriage, with an eye to alliance or advantage. In fact, Vadra - described as a plump "puppy" or Punjabi urban professional - has



baffled onlookers who had hoped that she might show more political savvy in her selection.

Deliberately, Priyanka has kept a low profile since her father's 1991 assassination, but many Indians still see her as a reincarnation of the young Indira, and hoped she might fulfil her political destiny. The floundering Congress Party could use someone with her pedigree, and she now is old enough to be an official candidate. But no one knows whether she intends to use her political birthright, or if she sees herself as a modern mamsell, in charge of her husband's house.

Jan McGirk, New Delhi

Daughter claims Maxwell was murdered

Robert Maxwell's youngest child, Ghislaine, believes her father was murdered. The 35-year-old businesswoman has refused to talk publicly about her father's mysterious death, five years ago, but has now given an interview to Hello! magazine.

"He did not commit suicide. That was just not consistent with his character," she said. "I think he was murdered."

Her father died after plunging from his yacht off the Canaries - named Lady Ghislaine in her honour. According to pathologists, his body was found floating, which was inconsistent with drowning.

Ms Maxwell said: "He did not commit suicide because he didn't drown. There is no evidence of suicide. It was not unhelpful to certain parties that the suicide theory was put about, because it meant his insurance policy would be in dispute."

Ms Maxwell, who now lives in New York, also said she was still grieving for the loss of her father. "I am definitely prone to tears," she said.

briefing

DEFENCE

MoD spells out forces' role in the new world order

For the first time ever the Ministry of Defence has set out what means by war, armed conflict and security, and what the armed forces are actually for. The Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Portillo, yesterday launched Britain's new, unified "Defence Doctrine". The timing of the launch was clearly designed to preempt Labour's call for a "strategic defence review" if it wins the general election.

Air Chief Marshal Sir John Willis, the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff, who oversaw the creation of the historic book, described it as "overarching, governing the principles by which business is conducted and how it is conducted".

He said that during the Cold War, when the purpose of the armed forces was pretty clear, there had been little need for a document, but this had changed, now that the world was a much more disorganised place.

British Defence Doctrine, MoD, £9.50. Available from the Royal United Services Institute, London SW1A 2ET. Christopher Be

POLITICS

Parties accused of ignoring women

Most women believe they are ignored by the main political parties according to a poll published yesterday. Almost seven out of 10 women feel the main parties do not pay sufficient attention to things that are important to them, even though they make up more than half the electorate and a significant proportion of the 18 floating vote.

The Equal Opportunities Commission wants parties to start taking notice of women's views and has drawn up a "National Agenda for Action" in an effort to influence their manifestos for the general election.

The NOP poll found that women in part-time employment those were widowed, divorced or separated were most unhappy the core voting group of 25-54 year olds, 75 per cent said they did not feel women's issues were given enough attention.

ENVIRONMENT

UK meets Rio targets on emissions

Britain is set to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by up to 8 per cent between 1990 and 2000, thereby keeping its promises made at 1992 Rio Earth Summit, John Gummer, the Secretary of State for the Environment reported yesterday. Industrialised nations committed themselves at Rio to stabilising annual emissions of carbon dioxide - the most important climate-changing pollutant - at the 1990 level by the year 2000. The gas is produced mainly by burning fossil fuels.

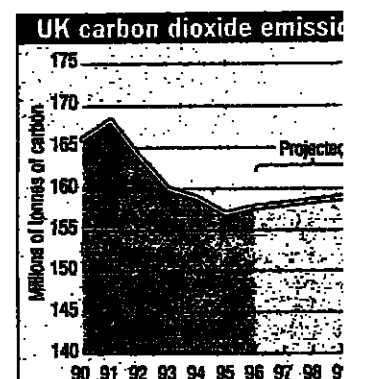
Britain is one of very few developed countries which will actually cut emissions. Others, including the USA, Canada and Australia look set to break their promise and increase their output of carbon dioxide over the decade. Britain's success is mainly due to the drastic slump in the use of coal to generate electricity and its replacement by gas which produces much less carbon dioxide.

Mr Gummer is urging industrialised countries to commit themselves to cut emissions by between 5 and 10 per cent between 2000 and 2010. Last year, UK carbon dioxide emissions actually rose slightly, according to the latest statistics, because gas consumption rocketed by 17 per cent and oil by 2 per cent. So while Britain does seem set to keep its international promise come the year 2000, the trend then is likely to be upwards.

Climate Change, UK

Programme, Cm3358,

HMSO. Nicholas Schoon



AGRICULTURE

Spies in the sky foil farm fraud

Satellite photographs of farm fields were used to uncover fraudulent claims by a farmer who falsely demanded money for growing oilseed rape under the European Common Agricultural Policy, the National Audit Office told MPs in a report. The satellite images showed that the field contained peas instead of oilseed rape, which earns less from the CAP, and after a site check, the farmer's claims were reduced from £43,700 to £27,300 - a saving of £16,400.

In another case, a farmer applied for oilseed subsidy on 78 hectares of land but he had also claimed for a different crop seven hectares of the same land. The Ministry decided not to prosecute because the fine would be minimal, but recovered £15,733.

There were 7,220 cases where farmers' claims were reduced or rejected after spot checks. These include the case of two brothers who filed a joint claim for sheep annual premium for 100 and but inspection showed they owned only 18 sheep. They were prosecuted and fined £3,000.

The checks on the beef special premium scheme cost over £100,000 but uncovered irregularities valued at £463,500.

Colin



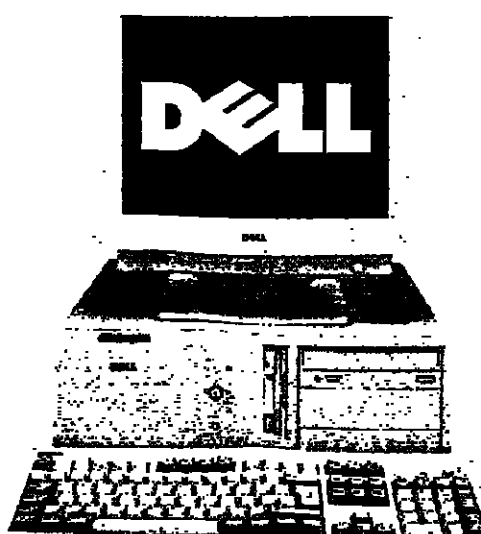
NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

Better Spec. Better Price. Better Hurry.

DELL DIMENSION XPS M166s

- INTEL® 166MHz PENTIUM® PROCESSOR WITH MMX™ TECHNOLOGY
- 16Mb SDRAM
- 512Kb CACHE
- 3Gb EIDE HARD DRIVE
- 5TB POWERGRAPH 64 3D PCI GRAPHICS CARD WITH 2Mb VIDEO MEMORY
- 15" COLOUR SVGA MONITOR (13.75" VIEWABLE AREA)
- TWELVE SPEED CD-ROM DRIVE
- MID-SIZED DESKTOP CHASSIS
- INTEGRATED 16-BIT SOUND
- WINDOWS 95 & MICROSOFT OFFICE PROFESSIONAL 95

£1,199 (£1,438.20)
incl. delivery & VAT



With Dell, things just get better and better. For only £1,199 (£1,438.20 inc. del. & VAT), we're offering Dell Dimension® XPS M166s with a Pentium® Processor with MMX™ technology. Because it comes with MMX™ technology it can run between 10% and 20% faster under today's normal business applications. It also includes a powerful 12 Speed CD-ROM Drive and a 3Gb Hard Drive. And we're giving you additional upgrades at outstanding prices (see below to upgrade this system further).

But you must hurry. Call the world's leading direct PC manufacturer today on 01344 724693 for a much better deal all round.

*Source IDC

Upgrade Options

- Add an additional 16Mb RAM and an upgrade to ACS290 speakers
- Add a 33.6 Internal Modem

Special Price for this Dimension XPS M166s bundle only

- Only £100 (£117.50 inc. VAT)
- Only £99 (£116.33 inc. VAT)

(CALL NOW FOR DETAILS OF OFFICE 97 UPGRADES.)

DELL

TALK DIRECT TO THE NUMBER OF

01344 724693

Between 8am and 8pm weekdays, 10am to 6pm

http://www.dell.com

Dell and the Dell logo are registered trademarks and Dell Dimension is a trademark of Dell Computer Corporation. The Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks and MMX is a trademark of Intel Corporation. Microsoft, Windows Office Professional 95 and the Windows logo are registered trademarks of the Microsoft Corporation. The time of going to press. Prices change frequently. All prices and specifications are subject to change without prior notice or obligation. Offer supplied with Windows 95, Dell mouse and keyboard included. Dell Computer Corporation Ltd, Pilkington House, Western Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1RO. Offer available for a limited period.

150 من المصن

Murdered girl's family feared prowler

Jason Bennett
Crime Correspondent

The foster parents of Billie-Jo Jenkins, the teenager who was murdered in her back garden, revealed yesterday that they had been trying to move home because of concerns about prowlers prior to the attack.

Sion and Lois Jenkins also disclosed that their 10-year-old daughter was the first to discover the body of Billie-Jo, 13, who was bludgeoned to death on Saturday while painting a patio door at her home in Hastings, East Sussex.

Meanwhile, police yesterday released into the care of a local health trust a 44-year-old local man who they had been questioning about the murder. Police are also investigating reports from Billie-Jo's school-friends that she feared she was being followed by a man shortly before her death.

At a press conference yesterday the couple, who became Billie-Jo's legal guardians after fostering her for four years, said they had been plagued with prowlers and nuisance calls and had felt a "sense of unease" since January.

Neighbours had reported to the police a person standing on the Jenkins' window ledge looking into their house; also the house next door was burgled, and men were seen loitering in the nearby park.

Mr Jenkins, a deputy headmaster, said they had moved from east London to give their children a better quality of life. He said: "We moved to the house because of the park and because of the children. But January has been a very strange and uneasy month. As a family, we have felt uneasy about prowlers."

"On one occasion I was looking out of the back window and I thought I saw movement. I switched on the outside security light and got a fleeting glimpse of somebody moving about. Another time I saw somebody in the park staring at the house."

"The problem is we live directly opposite the park entrance and there are always a lot of people coming and going. But we had decided to put the house on the market and were looking at a house in the old area of Hastings."

The case of the taxman, the prostitute and the rich men's bungs

Graham Ball

The long trial of Michael Allcock, the most senior Inland Revenue official ever convicted for corruption in a British court, has cast a shaft of light into one of Whitehall's darkest corners.

Even within the traditionally closed confines of the civil service, the Inland Revenue has been the most reticent to discuss its working custom and practice.

Whenever challenged to reveal the simplest detail of the techniques employed to select and investigate tax defaulters, they have always withdrawn in silence behind their abiding principle of "taxpayer confidentiality".

But for three months the jury at the Old Bailey has been made privy to some of the Government's most closely guarded secrets concerning the clandestine methods used to catch tax-dodgers.

Evidence presented to the court revealed that deals were regularly struck between the taxmen and wealthy individuals, who often owed millions in unpaid taxes, but subsequently paid much less after supplying "useful" information on others.

It became clear that a distinct "culture" prevailed among the élite corps of inspectors who staffed the 12 Special Offices (SOs) first set up in 1974 to tackle tax evasion by employing unconventional methods.

Michael Allcock, 47, joined the SO team in 1983 from an unpromising backwater income tax office in Colchester, Essex. He began his career in 1966, straight from school with only a handful of "O"-levels. After a while he began to make a name for himself as a diligent, if unorthodox, investigator.

One inquiry led to the home of a local prostitute where Allcock quizzed her husband. He demanded to know what the man did when his wife entertained "gentleman callers". "I go to the shed," he replied. "Let me see it," said Allcock. Inside, the taxman discovered that the husband kept an appointments diary of his wife's clients. That was evidence enough for Allcock to serve them with a joint demand for income tax.

He told the court that years later, as head of the task-force nicknamed the Ghost-busters, because they inquired into "spooks" - wealthy foreigners who claimed non-resident status and admitted no tax liability here - he sanctioned a highly speculative



6 If you don't ask you won't get, was the philosophy Allcock brought with him

approach to the offices of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

Inland Revenue investigators asked the town hall to supply a list of names of all those who qualified for resident's parking permits. Allcock knew that the local authority was under no obligation to comply with the cheeky request. But it did.

"If you don't ask, you won't get," was the philosophy Allcock brought with him when he first began work at the anonymous office building off Borough High Street, Southwark, that housed the SO2 operation.

"I was shown to a room where there was a desk and a telephone and told to get on with it," he said. "I was told we were the last line of defence. If we did not collect tax from these individuals, no one would."

the City of London, a series of press stories alleged that a growing number of City brokers and dealers were making millions from insider deals with the undeclared profits being siphoned off into offshore "brass plate" companies.

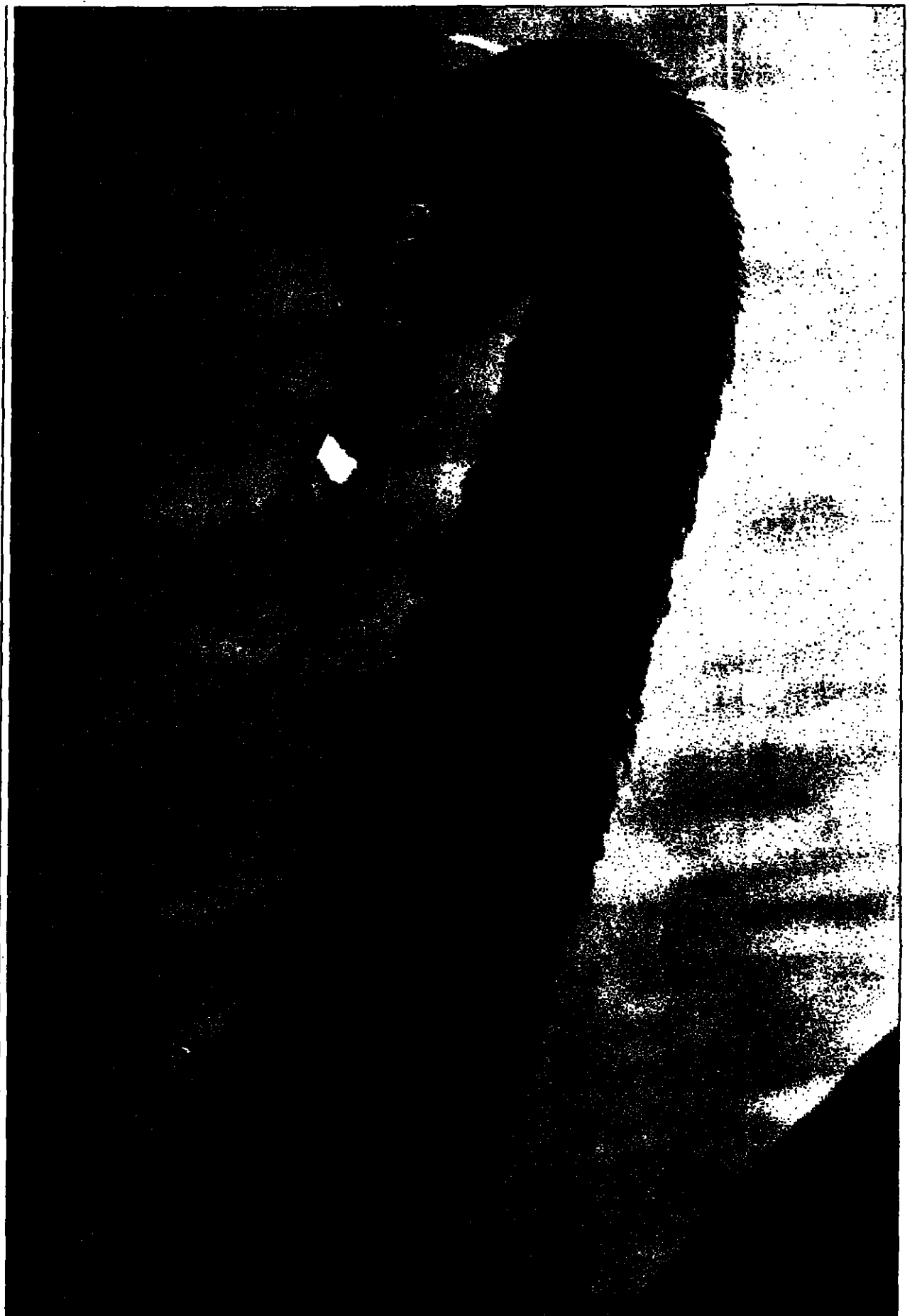
Allcock used a friend of his wife, who he knew worked in the Exchange, to arrange an informal invitation. Without declaring his professional interest, he went out to lunch with his new friends and what he learnt startled him. Later, he told colleagues: "I was gobsmacked. There was one guy there saying I had a bad morning. I only made £60,000 for my Jersey company. I could not believe what I was hearing."

Allcock pursued his new contacts in the City in a way no tax inspector had ever before. His arrival on the scene met a need. The Stock Market's insider-dealing team was under growing pressure to clean up some of the market's most potentially embarrassing cheats, and on as many as 50 previous occasions their own investigators had drawn a blank when the trail they were following led to offshore tax havens.

Allcock arrived at the Exchange complete with a Section 20 notice, which officially gave him the power to demand the production of share-dealing information. The Stock Exchange indicated the dealers thought to be most guilty of insider dealing, and sat back. The Inland Revenue men did the rest - trying to get their hands on undeclared capital gains of cash shipped quietly out to offshore tax havens. If brokers and dealers refused to name the beneficial owners of the offshore companies where they deposited the share dealing profits, he threatened to make dealers personally liable for the unpaid tax. He got results.

Allcock's Stock Exchange work was to undo him. John Black, for the prosecution at his trial, said: "He was gradually corrupted by the huge wealth he saw before him."

Things were also going wrong in his private life - his wife had a malignant breast tumour, and he had started a sexual relationship with an escort girl - but he was still bringing in millions for the Exchequer. There were no special rules or guidelines restricting the way the SO investigators should set about their business and for Allcock it was very much a case of the ends justifying the means. If he picked up some bonuses along the way, so be it.



Black beauty: Hopes are high for a rare, black swan wedding in Surrey, writes Matthew Brace. A year after a male black swan died in the tiny settlement of Outwood, a substitute mate may have

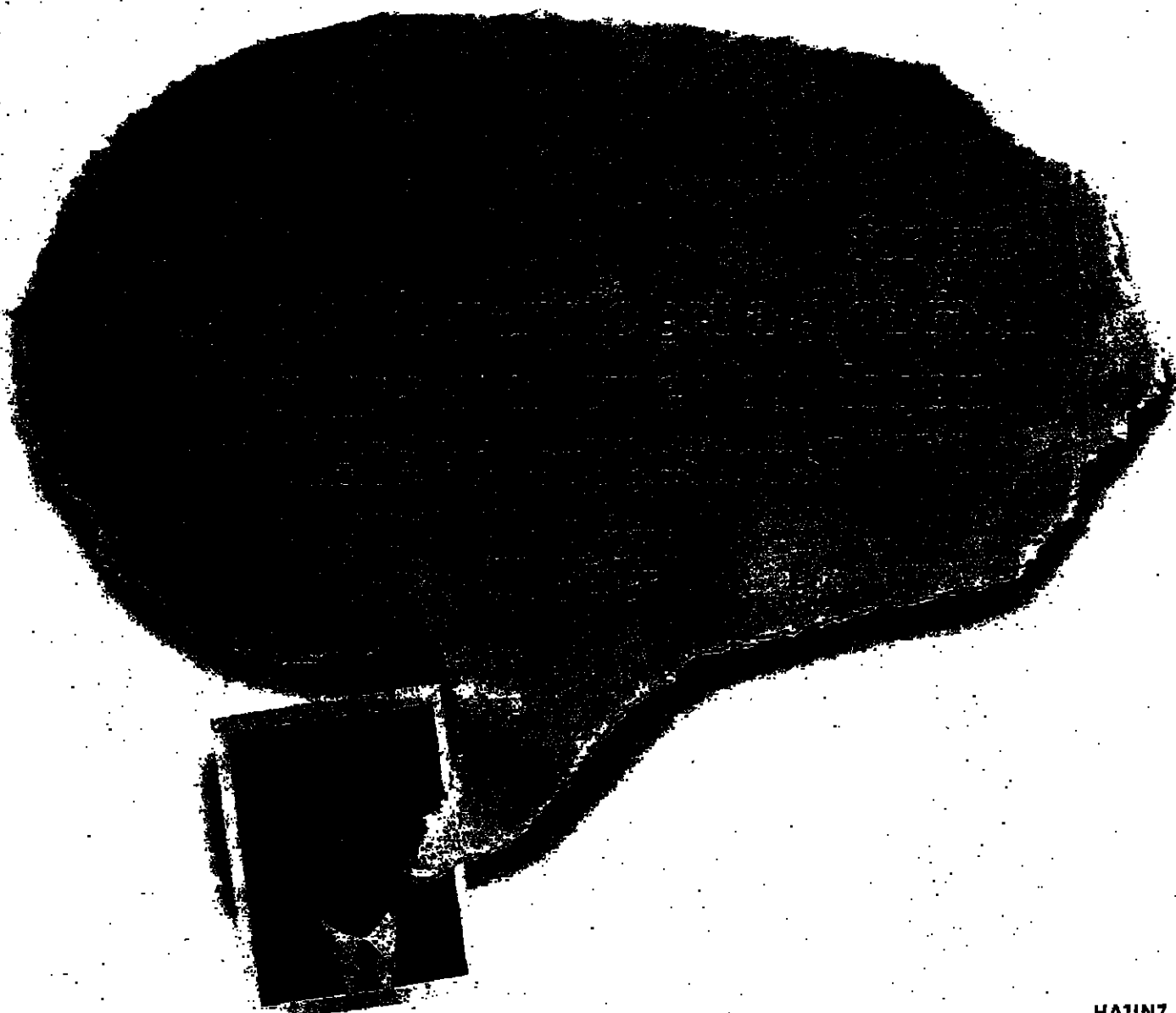
been found for its grieving female (above). And not before time, as the bereaved mate has spent the past year disturbing the rural peace with her mournful cries. Two people responded

to a plea on the radio by its owner, Sue McIntosh, for male black swans - a rare match considering there are less than 20 black swans in the wild in the UK. Photograph: David Rose

NATIONAL SAVINGS

Investment Ideas

HELPING YOU MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS



STEPHANIE BRAYNE
National Savings

"YES, OUR FIRST OPTION BONDS OFFER A GOOD RATE OF INTEREST and you only need to invest for one year at a time. They pay an attractive 4.8% pa net interest (6% pa gross), and as they are tax-paid they are ideal for basic rate taxpayers. What's more, if you invest £20,000 or over the rate increases to 5% pa tax-paid (6.25% pa gross). You can invest any amount between £1,000 and £250,000. With the option to cash in your Bond each year or keep it at a new, attractive fixed rate for a further 12 months, we think FIRST Option Bonds offer an excellent combination of flexibility and return."

Buy now using the application form in Your Money. For a full guide to our FIRST Option Bonds freecall 0500 500 000, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week."

NATIONAL SAVINGS

Unique Investment Opportunities from HM Treasury

HA11N7

politics

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS
SCORING THE EXCHANGES

Tony Blair 6/10
Blair kept his questions on privatisation specific, thus pointing up Major's unwillingness to answer.

John Major 3/10
For the most part, Major responded to Blair's questions only by accusing Labour of greater error.

THEMES OF THE DAY

• Grammar schools under Labour (Bob Dunn, C, Dartford)
• The effect in Essex of Scottish and Welsh devolution (John Whittingdale, C, South Cheshire and Maldon)
• The Daily Mail and the Stephen Lawrence murder (David Winnick, Lab, Walsall North)
• The "European Social Model" (Alan Duncan, C, Rutland and Melton)
• Closure of old people's homes (Eddie Loyden, Lab, Liverpool Garston)

BLAIR'S ATTACK

Blair pointed out individual "profiteering" from the privatisation of railway rolling stock companies. Major said Labour opposed companies "being efficient and being sold on". Blair cited examples of "windfall", including a possible profit of £20m that could be made by the managing director of one company who invested £110,000 a year ago. Major said that Blair's private office was funded by the profits of privatisation.

GOOD DAY...



Eddie Loyden (Lab, Liverpool Garston) asked whether Major respected those who fought in the Second World War, and would he look again at the closure of old people's homes in his constituency?

...BAD DAY



James Pawsey (C, Rugby and Kenilworth) was the unlucky rowdy MP among hundreds singled out by the Speaker for "shouting and bawling" at Blair.

THE QUIP OF THE DAY

Andrew Robathan (C, Blaby): Asked if Major had studied "the form at the five o'clock (horse-race) meeting tonight at Market Rasen?... has he noticed a sporting chance at 8-1 called Pause For Thought?... Does he agree that "pause for thought" might have been a maxim for the recent converts to privatising the Tote?"

THE UNANSWERED QUESTION

Winnick asked whether "the Daily Mail was right to campaign for the murderers of Stephen Lawrence to be brought to justice, and to name names?" Major replied: "I understand there is no question of statutory contempt as a result of the activities of the Daily Mail."

THE CREEP OF THE DAY

Duncan used his question to echo the Conservative poster campaign launched yesterday. He asked Major to confirm that if we were to adopt the "European Social Model", 23 million households would "immediately face a £2,300 tax hike which they would otherwise not need to pay?"

Compiled by Ben Summers

Tory admits errors over BSE

Katherine Butler,
Brussels

The British government made mistakes in its handling of the BSE crisis, a leading Conservative has admitted.

Lord Henry Plumb, a member of the European Parliament, made the admission yesterday as the Strasbourg assembly prepared to endorse a damning resolution which condemns Britain and threatens to sack the European Commission en masse

for putting the concerns of beef farmers before human health.

The resolution, which is expected to be backed in a vote today, gives the Commission until November to implement a radical overhaul of food safety policy or face a vote of censure.

The entire Commission must resign if a majority of MEPs supports a censure motion. In theory, the Commission could be sacked today but a motion tabled by a Belgian MEP is not expected to draw support.

MEPs may also call today for a refund to European taxpayers of the £1bn in EU subsidies paid to Britain in farmer compensation since last March, although few deputies seriously believe this will be heeded.

Lord Plumb criticised a "witch hunt" against Britain but acknowledged mismanagement: "Whilst mistakes were made and people have said we could have done better in the past, I don't think that calls for condemnation".

Downing Street described the report as a "flawed piece of work". It said the highly controversial document contained a "great number of inaccuracies" and ignored the strenuous efforts Britain had made to tackle the disease.

In an attempt to head off the threat of censure, Jacques Santer, the European Commission President yesterday offered MEPs shared authority with EU governments over certain aspects of health policy.

He also promised a shakeup of the sprawling Brussels agriculture directorate. Farm commissioner Franz Fischler will, however, be stripped of responsibility for food safety, which is to be transferred to Emma Bonino, the Italian in charge of consumer affairs.

Mr Santer also pledged all veterinary inspections would in future be handled by a new agency to be located in Ireland.

Today's vote on a motion of "conditional censure" comes

in the wake of an eight-month parliamentary inquiry which concluded Britain was the main culprit in the BSE debacle but that the Commission was also to blame for failures and errors.

Sir Stephen Wall, the British ambassador to the EU, dismissed the findings as a "gratuitous misrepresentation of the facts". But Labour MEP Pauline Greene, leader of the Socialist group in Strasbourg, poured scorn on the Conservatives handling of the affair.



Tuck shop: John Prescott eating a custard pie in Heswall yesterday while campaigning in the Wirral South by-election

Photograph: John Voos

PM joins debate over race murder

Jason Bennett
Crime Correspondent

The Prime Minister said yesterday that he hoped the killers of Stephen Lawrence, the black teenager who was stabbed to death at a bus stop in London, could still be jailed.

His comments follow an inquest which found that Mr Lawrence, 18, had been unlawfully killed four years ago "in a completely unprovoked racist attack by five white youths".

The *Daily Mail* provoked a general furore and outrage among many leading legal figures after it printed the names and photographs of five unconvicted young white men and accused them of being the murderers.

Three of the five, from south-east London, cannot be tried for Mr Lawrence's murder as they have already been acquitted and under British law cannot face the same charge.

Speaking at Commons question time, John Major told MPs: "I hope even at this stage that it will be possible to mount a successful prosecution. If evidence is forthcoming, it will be examined. There is no lack of will to prosecute."

He is understood to have been making a general comment about his desire for justice to be done, rather than talking about any specific suspects.

His comments came after Mr Lawrence's mother, Doreen, speaking yesterday at the launch of the 1997 European Year Against Racism, urged people to join the campaign to bring his killers to trial.

The Prime Minister went on to say the *Daily Mail* was cleared of any statutory contempt after it accused the five white men of Mr Lawrence's murder.

He said: "I'm not myself a lawyer, but I understand there's no question of statutory contempt as a result of the activities of the *Daily Mail*."

More is less.

Was £1,200 + VAT
(£1,410)

Now
£899 + VAT
(£1,057)

Compaq Deskpro 2000 5133 M1620
Intel Pentium® 133-MHz processor
1.6GB hard drive
16-MB memory, 256KB cache
Compaq 140 14" SVGA monitor.

All Deskpro PCs have huge price reductions of up to 24%. What's more, until the end of April our special promotion prices mean you will pay even less for a Deskpro 2000 with a Compaq 140 or V50 monitor. This means if you're a growing business your budgets will now stretch to faster processors and larger hard drives.

OFFER ENDS
30TH APRIL

Tel: 0990 50 00 20

COMPAQ COSTS YOU LESS THAN CHEAPER COMPUTERS

COMPAQ

Offer closes 30.4.97. Offer valid while stocks last at participating resellers. Prices quoted are Compaq recommended prices. Actual savings may vary. Photograph shows 15" monitor; price quoted refers to specification description only. The Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation. "Source: Market Research Agency IDC."

Not to mention even lower long term costs of PC ownership. All this comes from the number one brand in the UK for deskbased PCs*. To take advantage of this offer contact your reseller or for promotion details call us between 8.30am and 8pm (9am-5pm at weekends).



pentium®

Labour cattiness wins chorus of disapproval

Seven "vindictive" Labour MPs who called on Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, the multi-millionaire composer, to fulfil his so-called promise to quit Britain if Labour wins the general election, came under fire from Conservatives last night.

Angry Tories claimed that the MPs, whose Commons motion effectively said "good riddance" to Sir Andrew, were predicting a new brain drain in a Labour-ruled Britain. They described the signatories to the motion as "churlish, envious and jealous" of a brilliantly successful man who had earned billions of dollars for the United Kingdom.

The motion is based on reports that Sir Andrew would move to Ireland if Labour wins. But a spokeswoman for the composer - who became a life peer in the New Year Honours - said he had no plans to live

outside the UK. "He's being introduced to the House of Lords next week, so it's hardly the action of someone who is likely to leave the country."

The motion says the possibility of Sir Andrew leaving the country "provides an extra incentive to vote Labour" and that the MPs "look forward to Sir Andrew keeping his promise".

But John Butcher, Tory MP for Coventry South West, said: "It is churlish and spiteful and reveals Labour's old prejudice against successful people. Sadly, Sir Andrew could be followed by thousands of successful industrialists if Labour gets in."

Harry Greenway, Conservative MP for Ealing North, said: "If Sir Andrew goes, he would take huge talent with him. This would be the second brain drain - and Labour MPs are already predicting what would happen."

Sir Andrew has earned billions of dollars for Britain and it is monstrous that spiteful Labour MPs should react like this."

Michael Fabricant, Tory MP for Mid Staffs, said: "These people have conveniently forgotten what Sir Andrew has earned for this country. They are already wishing a brain drain of our wealth-creating talent."

The composer, responsible for a string of West End hits including *Evita*, *Cats* and *Phantom of the Opera*, is said by friends to be adopting a "wait and see" approach.

Tony Banks, Labour MP for Newham North West, who sponsored the motion, described Sir Andrew's reported threat to leave the country if Labour was elected as "arrogant in the extreme". He wanted to see the back of Sir Andrew "because that's the best view".

The Government had committed itself to increasing funding on the NHS - yelled Mr Decibel, the Secretary of State for Health - "yerr on yerr on yerr on yerr on yerr". Last time it was only yerr on yerr on yerr. He adds one more "yerr" each time.

Decibel's opposite number, Chris Smith, was not to be outdone. He spoke of the problems facing "patient after patient, hospital after hospital".

If this escalation continues there will be parliamentary time only for one health question ("patient, after patient, hospital after hospital, ward after ward, nurse after nurse" etc) and one answer ("yerr on yerr, on yerr, on yerr" *ad infinitum*). Or will one of them flinch, and walk off huffily, saying that they won't play this silly game anymore because, somewhere along the line, they've grown up? I doubt it.

Meanwhile Labour's collection of serious health women were looking concerned. They began the session gathered together, giving support to the two sisters (Tessa Jowell and Anne Coffey) who sit on the front bench. But their serenity was put in danger with the arrival of male colleague, Tam Dalyell. Mr Da-

DAVID Aaronovitch
My exaggeration is greater than yours



lyell, alone of MPs, is allowed to supplement the upholstery of the Commons, and trails a tatty green cushion behind him for that purpose. This cushion he deploys as a retrospective reservation card, plonking it down where fellow MPs are already sitting - an early warning that his bottom is about to follow. (Once upon a time, a colleague tells me, "I'm used to have a rubber ring, but I presume that its regular inflation and deflation reminded him too painfully of when Labour was in power.") The women watched as the dreaded cushion came closer, hovered ominously above an audacious Bridget Prentice - and moved on. Phew!

Now safe from the predatory pillow, one of Labour's leading ladies, Tessa Jowell - in uniform of bob and box jacket - asked something earnest about cancer patients having to wait for operations. This led junior minister, the Hon Tom Sackville, to go ballistic with ear-splitting Dorellian violence. How dare the honourable lady resort to cheap political point-scoring? (Expensive point-scoring - such as buying all the poster sites in Britain - is quite acceptable.)

Cue Prime Minister's questions. John Whittingdale, the intelligent and cuddly young right-wing soft toy - who sits (comfortably) for Colchester South and Maldon - was concerned that a Scottish parliament would lead to insurrection by English nationalists in his peaceful part of Essex. Scythes were being sharpened and hedge-trim-

mers prepared. Mr Major agreed, sombrely. He too fears the spectacle of hills being burned on the streets of Salford-Walden. With their Caledonian owners still in them.

The other main whipped question came from the exquisitely chiselled lips of Alan Duncan (Con, Rutland and Melton). Would the Prime Minister make it clear that - unlike the shadow Foreign Secretary (Robin Cook) - he was "not at home with the European social model". The idea of being at home with any model was clearly repugnant to the dapper Duncan, let alone a European social one (doubtless named something like Heidi or Etta), whose curves would be likely to grace the pages of *Der Spiegel* or the *Svenske Tjeblad*.

Mr Major reassured a relieved House that he most certainly would not be at home with a European social model. The social and fragrant Norma was quite satisfactory in every important way, thank you; so such promiscuous French-type thoughts could be left to the benches opposite.

Along the bench Mr Decibel nodded vigorously. "Herr, herr!" he bellowed, "herr, herr, herr!"



Get yourself AA protection from just £39*

With AA personal membership, all-round protection offers...

- Cover even when driving someone else's car or when travelling as a passenger.
- Roadside help whether your vehicle is immobilised as a result of a breakdown or accident, (including theft or vandalism).

• Over 80% of all breakdowns fixed at the roadside.

- Priority to members in vulnerable situations.
- Day-and-night, year-round service from the UK's leading motoring assistance organisation.

Call us today and you could save £6

Now, if you pay annually by direct debit or continuous credit card authority, AA

protection can be yours from just £39* a year.

That's the equivalent of only £3.25 a month, and is £6 off the cash-payment price of £45.

To join, call free now on
0800 444 445

and ask for extension 6172. Immediate cover available.

Internet: <http://www.aa.co.uk/thesa>

TO OUR MEMBERS WE'RE THE 4TH EMERGENCY SERVICE



*£39 price is £6 off the cash-payment price of £45, and includes a £3 first year registration fee, applicable only to new members joining with Breakdown Option 100 and paying annually by direct debit or continuous credit card authority. Membership is subject to the Rules of the AA and full details of services, benefits and restrictions can be found in the current AA Handbook, available for inspection at any AA Shop.

هذا من الاصل

Tied pubs putting licensees over a barrel

Steve Boggan

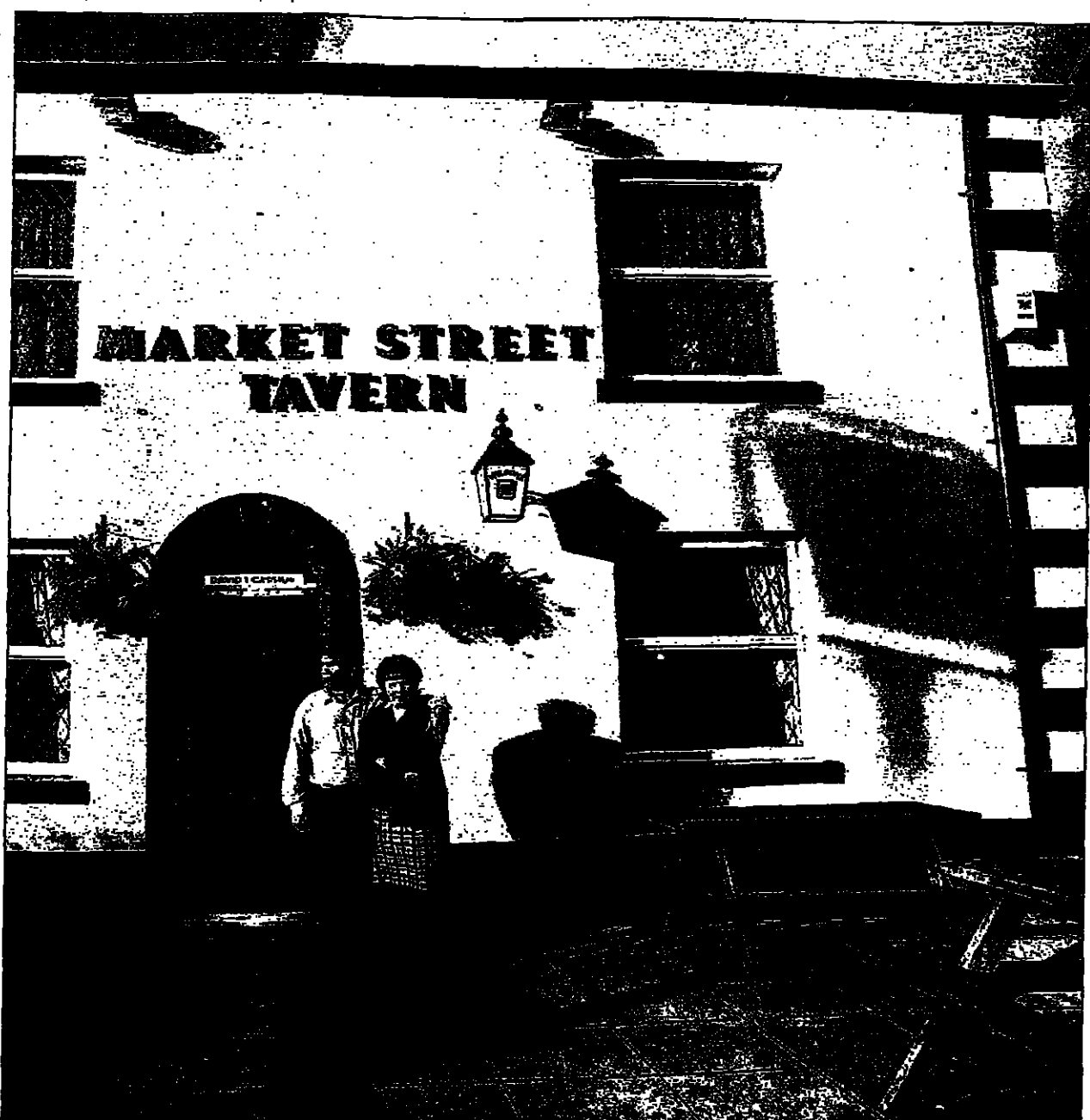
Publicans from all over the country are holding a conference in London today in an attempt to head off what they claim is a serious threat to thousands of Britain's pubs.

They will lobby MPs and brewers over restrictions on tied houses which are driving their costs up and many of their colleagues, like David and Joan Cassidy (pictured, right) who run the Market Street Tavern in Radcliffe, near Manchester - to the brink of disaster.

The Federation of Small Businesses is hosting the conference at Church House in Westminster, central London, to highlight the difficulties encountered since the big eight brewers were ordered by the Monopolies Commission to sell off 11,000 pubs in 1990.

The federation says that the tenants of those tied pubs have to pay high rents and must buy beer from their brewers at full list price, whereas free houses get discounts of up to 25 per cent.

"The rent and beer prices are too high," said Mr Cassidy. "We owe our brewery [Matthew Brown] £5,000 and we've only been here nine months."



Tied to the brewery: Joan and David Cassidy, who say that rent and beer prices are too high. Photograph: John Voos

Genetic testing for insurance moves closer

Nic Cicutti

Compulsory genetic testing for insurance policyholders moved a step closer yesterday as the Association of British Insurers said that those who have already taken any such test will have to report its results to the company they want cover from.

The ABI, the industry's trade body, insisted that the new policy reflected existing practice by its members. It said that companies would ignore the results of any genetic tests if they were part of an application to buy a house worth up to £100,000.

Tony Baker, the ABI's deputy director-general, said his organisation's policy was a "carefully considered and responsible contribution to ... new challenges".

But some ABI members, who refused to be named, privately warned yesterday that the statement, which will remain in place for two years, was "the thin end of the wedge". Eventually, genetic testing would be part and parcel of assessing most prospective policyholders' risk profiles.

Ian Reed, general manager at Cornhill, owned by Allianz, the German insurance giant, said: "At this stage in the develop-

ment of genetic science, it is inappropriate for insurers to be seen as representing a negative element to what promises to be a revolution in the management of serious diseases."

Cornhill said it would refuse to ask for any genetic testing information for any policy under £100,000.

The ABI's statement marks the latest phase in a debate as to whether increasingly sophisticated genetic tests for a range of diseases should be used to deny insurance to those who may be found to have the potential to develop life-threatening illnesses.

Doctors can already diagnose the most common single gene defects, such as muscular dystrophy. Experts say it will soon be possible to predict the risk of more common disorders, such as diabetes or rheumatoid arthritis, while heart disease and cancer may only be a few years away.

Many American companies already require applicants for insurance to undergo genetic testing. But in the United Kingdom, fears have been raised of an insurance underclass, unable to obtain insurance or penalised by a negative genetic test.

The British Medical Association said it was concerned over the continuing use of health information for non-medical purposes.

A spokeswoman said: "The result of a genetic test may give a lot of information about an individual's health. On the other hand, it may give very little information at all."

"For example, a test may indicate a predisposition to a particular disease but the individual may never develop the disease."

"One individual may test positive for a disease without having the disease themselves."

The spokeswoman added: "At the BMA we are worried about the extent to which genetic information, which can be extremely complex, could be misinterpreted."

"We are very pleased that the ABI has clearly stated that they will not be asking anyone to take a genetic test when they apply for life insurance."

"We remain worried about the increasing use of people's health information for non-health issues and would be concerned if people were discouraged from finding out more about their health needs because of fears about the social implications of taking a test."

Channel Five banks on football and films

Rob Brown
Media Editor

Channel Five produced few ripples of surprise or alarm yesterday when it unveiled its programme line-up for the first time in a trendy waterside development on the south bank of the Thames, specially decked out in the five superbright bars of colours which comprise its corporate identity.

Apart from signalling that it will be competing fiercely in the football bidding war, there was nothing which has not been trailed already in the press.

Britain's fifth and final terrestrial service will be relying heavily on nightly films, a new-style soap opera, American imports and a different approach to news and current affairs to make its mark before the digital revolution unleashes up to 200 satellite channels at the end of this year.

Its programming budget is a modest £130m, a hefty whack of which will go on a few big blockbuster such as *Independence Day* and *Braveheart*, and on live coverage of World Cup qualifier matches.

CS has already splashed out to acquire the rights to the Poland-England match in May and confirmed yesterday that it is keen to secure coverage of the tie against Italy in the autumn.

The only major domestic drama it could trail yesterday was a series based on Stephanie Slater's *Kidnap* at the hands of Michael Sams, which it will screen on its 30 March opening night. But it promised other projects in the pipelines.

Dawn Airey, head of programming, stressed that up to 70 per cent of its output would be original productions. She said CS would be the only free-to-air channel which was both modern and mainstream, pro-

ducing "intelligent, stylish popular television rooted in attitudes and tastes of modern British life".

It will also be the first terrestrial station to operate a "stripped and satellite" schedule, pioneered in this country by American-influenced cable and satellite channels. This means that it will slice the daily schedule into programming genres which would occupy the same slot each day.

The news output will be pitched primarily at young males, who tend not to tune into current affairs programmes but are an audience advertisers are eager to attract. A young, blonde presenter, Kirsty Young, has been brought down from Scotland to give it some sex appeal.

Channel Five's chief executive David Elstein forecast that the station would attract a 5 per cent share of total viewing by Christmas.

New name, new station ... same old stories

Channel Five is so proud of its corporate buzz words, "modern mainstream", that it has actually taken out a trademark on them. You can see the protective initials in the glossy preview brochure which accompanied the launch of its schedule, as if the phrase is a sort of secret formula for the creation of a television station and mere repetition of it might transform a mixed bag of foreign soaps, buy-in drama and cheap-and-cheerful home-grown product into "a force for change in popular contemporary culture".

What exactly does it have in mind, one wonders - the arrival of *Hercules and Xena*, an American treat for "fans of hare-brained action-adventure"? Or *Exclusive*, a half-hour of celebrity gossip which will run every night at seven as part of



Thomas Sutcliffe, TV critic, finds imitation the order of the day

make-out - BBC2 and Channel 4 have both experimented with similar tactics. But CS takes them further, a fact that makes its schedules look much more like those of a cable channel than of a fifth terrestrial network.

Imitation or resurrection seems to be the order of the day - the drama includes an Australian version of *London's Burning*, an Aaron Spelling *Baywatch* clone and a down-under hybrid of *Cracker* and *Silent Witness*. What is missing is any sign of genuine innovation. My hopes rose a little on spotting *The Bad*, a launch-night special which follows the occupants of a single intensive-care bed over a four-month period. But if you can't wait to see this, you don't have to - Channel 4 broadcasts a very similar programme, with an identical title, next Monday.

PEOPLES

PHONES

Get the phone he got the Walkman

FREE SONY WALKMAN PERSONAL STEREO

Just connect to any one of these three superb GSM digital phones and get a Sony Walkman personal stereo absolutely free!

NO LINE RENTAL FOR 12 MONTHS

The perfect package with no line rental worries for a year.

Pay just £169.99 and get the superb Nokia 1610 and 12 months line rental.

NO CONTRACT NO MONTHLY RENTAL NO CREDIT CHECK

And 25 minutes of free calls. Vodafone PrePay - the ideal way to own a mobile phone with no strings.

ALL FOR ONLY £59.99

Answer connection to 070 7000

A FREE SONY WALKMAN PERSONAL STEREO WITH ANY OF THESE TOP GSM DIGITAL PHONES!

SONY CM-DX 1000	£49.99
• 10 hours talktime	
• 70 hours standby	
NEC G8	£9.99
• 130 minutes talktime	
• 24 hours standby	
MOTOROLA FLARE	£9.99
• 105 minutes talktime	
• 17 hrs standby	

FREE

Free Sony Walkman personal stereo on presentation of this voucher when you connect to any of these phones.

Excludes all special offers. See Sony Walkman website for details.

181 STORES NATIONWIDE

CALL US NOW FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE OR FOR A FREE INFORMATION PACK

0800-10-11-12

Offers are subject to stock, availability and connection on a new number to a new standard Vodafone digital answer contract. Customers will need to provide a valid credit card or cheque guarantee card plus bank details and proof of address. Connection will be charged on digital phones at £25.25. Offers are not available in conjunction with any other offers. £169.99 package offer requires connection to Vodafone PersonalPay. Sony and Walkman are trademarks of The Sony Corporation, Japan. Offers end 28th February 1997.

Paying for your neighbours' Home & Contents Insurance?

... Probably.

You're probably subsidising the Home and Contents Insurance premiums of more careless neighbours. It's time to stop - get an individual quote for your home.

Talk to **TEACHERS** 0800 37 87 22

Quote: HC1/2

news



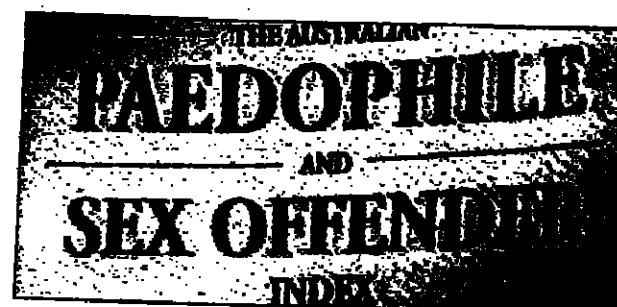
Speaking out: Deborah Coddington, who published listings of paedophiles in Australia and New Zealand Photograph: Sky

This woman has named 600 child abusers in Australia. Now she plans a British list

Robert Milliken
Sydney
and Glenda Cooper

A woman who yesterday published a controversial book naming more than 600 convicted paedophiles in Australia says that she plans to compile a similar book in Britain.

But probation officers and civil rights groups said it would be "unhelpful, ineffective and dangerous" if Deborah Coddington, who compiled *The Australian Paedophile and Sex Offender Index*, was allowed to publish such a book. They warned that such action was likely to put children in more danger by driving paedophiles underground, away from intensive supervision and giving them more opportunity to abuse.



Look it up: Offenders are indexed by name and location

Ms Coddington's 304-page Australian book contains an alphabetical compilation of people convicted of abusing children since 1991, including details of their offences and the likely release dates of those in prison. She follows this with an index of offenders by town and city

and another index by occupation. The biggest category here belongs to "clergy and church".

Her sources were newspapers, sentencing directories and conviction details from the Internet. "I became more and more horrified... at the ways in which predators located children, abused them and repeated their crimes," she writes in her introduction. "Paedophiles are very cunning and without conscience - they use threats, bribery, secrets, lies, flattery and other tricks to ensure the child victim does not tell anyone."

Ms Coddington's book comes at a time when a royal commission inquiry into corruption in the New South Wales police force has begun an investigation of child abuse and the alleged protection of paedophiles by police. Already, seven witnesses have committed suicide, including a former Supreme Court judge and two policemen. The latest, a headmaster, hanged himself last weekend.

Ms Coddington, a journalist and mother of four, published a similar book in New Zealand last year where she was praised by supporters of children's rights and abused by civil libertarians

and lawyers. "I felt like the most hated woman in New Zealand," she said in Sydney yesterday. She dismissed the criticisms, saying that the people in her book had abused another person's right to pursue happiness and so had forfeited, for a time, their own rights.

But Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of Britain's National Association of Probation Officers warned of the dangers of such a book being brought out in this country: "It is liable to drive paedophiles underground [and] could potentially incite mob mentality," he said, adding that it would also be ineffective because around 80 per cent of paedophiles are never convicted.

John Wadham, director of Liberty, the civil rights group, added: "Sex offenders could be attacked... There could also be mistakes in the book which will lead to innocent people being targeted."

In Britain the Sexual Offenders Bill will set up a national register of sex offenders, enabling the police to keep track of convicted paedophiles and rapists. It is intended that only the police should have access to the information.

But pressure has been growing to bring in community notification orders similar to "Megan's Law", introduced in the United States last year, which requires public notification of the name and address of any convicted sex offender.

It is named after seven-year-old Megan Kanka, who was raped and murdered by a convicted paedophile who had moved into the street in New Jersey where she lived.

10% off.



BT cut 10% off calls to France.

5 minute weekend call to France	Before Feb. 19th	From Feb. 19th	Percentage Reduction	Price with Friends & Family and PremierLine
	£1.30	£1.17	10%	87.6p

The latest price cuts. Call 24hr. Freefone 0800 003 800 to see how much you could save. BT

SOME 100 PRICES UNCHANGED. DIRECT DIALED CALLS ONLY. EXCLUDES BT PUBLIC PAYPHONE AND BT CHARGECARD CALLS. FRIENDS & FAMILY IS AVAILABLE ON ONE INTERNATIONAL NUMBER AND IS NOT AVAILABLE WITH THE LIGHT USER SCHEME. FRIENDS & FAMILY DISCOUNTS NORMALLY START WITHIN 14 DAYS. PREMIERLINE SUBSCRIPTION IS £6 PER QUARTER.

DAILY POEM

The Origin of Love

By Vasko Popa, translated by Anne Pennington

*I'm waiting for the sun on a bench
In the park opposite my house*

*I follow the path of the clouds across the sky
I watch the couples with their arms
On the gravel between the pines*

*The newspaper reader at the other end of the bench
Follows the path of my gazes*

*Love hasn't always existed
The poor invented it you know*

*To get at women's sweet locks
And men's straight keys
Without silver shillings*

Anne Pennington's translation from the Serbian of Vasko Popa's *Collected Poems* has been updated by Francis R. Jones and is published by Arvill Press (£25). This poem first appeared in Popa's collection *The Cut* (1981).

SHORT-SIGHTED?

ENJOY THE FUTURE WITHOUT GLASSES

Eliminate the inconvenience and cost of contact lenses and glasses for only £395 per eye (or £760 for both). Using the most advanced lasers our doctors can correct short-sight and astigmatism. Over 27,500 treatments make OPTIMAX the UK's leading laser centre.

£395 per eye

OPTIMAX
LASER EYE CLINICS

Phone now for a free information pack

0990-14 33 14

LONDON • BRISTOL • MANCHESTER • BIRMINGHAM • NEWCASTLE

صكرا من الاربعين

RECEIVED

[illegible]

1. **NAME**
 2. **ADDRESS**
 3. **CITY**
 4. **STATE**
 5. **ZIP**
 6. **PHONE**
 7. **TELETYPE**
 8. **FAX**
 9. **E-MAIL**
 10. **DATE**
 11. **TIME**
 12. **BY**
 13. **FOR**
 14. **REMARKS**
 15. **INITIALS**
 16. **SIGNATURE**
 17. **DATE**
 18. **TIME**
 19. **BY**
 20. **FOR**
 21. **REMARKS**
 22. **INITIALS**
 23. **SIGNATURE**
 24. **DATE**
 25. **TIME**
 26. **BY**
 27. **FOR**
 28. **REMARKS**
 29. **INITIALS**
 30. **SIGNATURE**
 31. **DATE**
 32. **TIME**
 33. **BY**
 34. **FOR**
 35. **REMARKS**
 36. **INITIALS**
 37. **SIGNATURE**
 38. **DATE**
 39. **TIME**
 40. **BY**
 41. **FOR**
 42. **REMARKS**
 43. **INITIALS**
 44. **SIGNATURE**
 45. **DATE**
 46. **TIME**
 47. **BY**
 48. **FOR**
 49. **REMARKS**
 50. **INITIALS**
 51. **SIGNATURE**
 52. **DATE**
 53. **TIME**
 54. **BY**
 55. **FOR**
 56. **REMARKS**
 57. **INITIALS**
 58. **SIGNATURE**
 59. **DATE**
 60. **TIME**
 61. **BY**
 62. **FOR**
 63. **REMARKS**
 64. **INITIALS**
 65. **SIGNATURE**
 66. **DATE**
 67. **TIME**
 68. **BY**
 69. **FOR**
 70. **REMARKS**
 71. **INITIALS**
 72. **SIGNATURE**
 73. **DATE**
 74. **TIME**
 75. **BY**
 76. **FOR**
 77. **REMARKS**
 78. **INITIALS**
 79. **SIGNATURE**
 80. **DATE**
 81. **TIME**
 82. **BY**
 83. **FOR**
 84. **REMARKS**
 85. **INITIALS**
 86. **SIGNATURE**
 87. **DATE**
 88. **TIME**
 89. **BY**
 90. **FOR**
 91. **REMARKS**
 92. **INITIALS**
 93. **SIGNATURE**
 94. **DATE**
 95. **TIME**
 96. **BY**
 97. **FOR**
 98. **REMARKS**
 99. **INITIALS**
 100. **SIGNATURE**
 101. **DATE**
 102. **TIME**
 103. **BY**
 104. **FOR**
 105. **REMARKS**
 106. **INITIALS**
 107. **SIGNATURE**
 108. **DATE**
 109. **TIME**
 110. **BY**
 111. **FOR**
 112. **REMARKS**
 113. **INITIALS**
 114. **SIGNATURE**
 115. **DATE**
 116. **TIME**
 117. **BY**
 118. **FOR**
 119. **REMARKS**
 120. **INITIALS**
 121. **SIGNATURE**
 122. **DATE**
 123. **TIME**
 124. **BY**
 125. **FOR**
 126. **REMARKS**
 127. **INITIALS**
 128. **SIGNATURE**
 129. **DATE**
 130. **TIME**
 131. **BY**
 132. **FOR**
 133. **REMARKS**
 134. **INITIALS**
 135. **SIGNATURE**
 136. **DATE**
 137. **TIME**
 138. **BY**
 139. **FOR**
 140. **REMARKS**
 141. **INITIALS**
 142. **SIGNATURE**
 143. **DATE**
 144. **TIME**
 145. **BY**
 146. **FOR**
 147. **REMARKS**
 148. **INITIALS**
 149. **SIGNATURE**
 150. **DATE**
 151. **TIME**
 152. **BY**
 153. **FOR**
 154. **REMARKS**
 155. **INITIALS**
 156. **SIGNATURE**
 157. **DATE**
 158. **TIME**
 159. **BY**
 160. **FOR**
 161. **REMARKS**
 162. **INITIALS**
 163. **SIGNATURE**
 164. **DATE**
 165. **TIME**
 166. **BY**
 167. **FOR**
 168. **REMARKS**
 169. **INITIALS**
 170. **SIGNATURE**
 171. **DATE**
 172. **TIME**
 173. **BY**
 174. **FOR**
 175. **REMARKS**
 176. **INITIALS**
 177. **SIGNATURE**
 178. **DATE**
 179. **TIME**
 180. **BY**
 181. **FOR**
 182. **REMARKS**
 183. **INITIALS**
 184. **SIGNATURE**
 185. **DATE**
 186. **TIME**
 187. **BY**
 188. **FOR**
 189. **REMARKS**
 190. **INITIALS**
 191. **SIGNATURE**
 192. **DATE**
 193. **TIME**
 194. **BY**
 195. **FOR**
 196. **REMARKS**
 197. **INITIALS**
 198. **SIGNATURE**
 199. **DATE**
 200. **TIME**
 201. **BY**
 202. **FOR**
 203. **REMARKS**
 204. **INITIALS**
 205. **SIGNATURE**
 206. **DATE**
 207. **TIME**
 208. **BY**
 209. **FOR**
 210. **REMARKS**
 211. **INITIALS**
 212. **SIGNATURE**
 213. **DATE**
 214. **TIME**
 215. **BY**
 216. **FOR**
 217. **REMARKS**
 218. **INITIALS**
 219. **SIGNATURE**
 220. **DATE**
 221. **TIME**
 222. **BY**
 223. **FOR**
 224. **REMARKS**
 225. **INITIALS**
 226. **SIGNATURE**
 227. **DATE**
 228. **TIME**
 229. **BY**
 230. **FOR**
 231. **REMARKS**
 232. **INITIALS**
 233. **SIGNATURE**
 234. **DATE**
 235. **TIME**
 236. **BY**
 237. **FOR**
 238. **REMARKS**
 239. **INITIALS**
 240. **SIGNATURE**
 241. **DATE**
 242. **TIME**
 243. **BY**
 244. **FOR**
 245. **REMARKS**
 246. **INITIALS**
 247. **SIGNATURE**
 248. **DATE**
 249. **TIME**
 250. **BY**
 251. **FOR**
 252. **REMARKS**

WE WITHOUT GLASS
inconvenience of
lenses and glasses
or eye medicine
to most people
ctors can correct
astigmatism as
its name implies
laser control.

IMAX

14 331





Photograph: Andrew Burrman

Teacher Health of Phone

training to fulfil the scheme's requirements.

Playgroups and private nurseries have complained that they are losing pupils as four-year-olds are crammed into reception classes by schools eager for voucher money.

Margaret Locurie of the Pre-School Learning Alliance, said: "It is quite a positive result given that our pre-schools have had no funding at all until now. But how are pre-schools with weaknesses to get the resources they need to improve when... four-year-olds are being poached by state-school reception classes?"

She emphasised the importance of teachers as role models. "Young people are impressed by image. I think that if they perceive that a teacher regards his or her work as important enough to warrant smart dress and good presentation then young people will think that it is an important job."

- Have a secure grasp of the subjects they teach;
- Stimulate pupils' intellectual curiosity and enthusiasm;
- Set demanding expectations;
- Maintain good discipline;
- Check pupils are making good progress;
- Plan and organise lessons well;
- Set and mark appropriate classwork
- Prepare informative reports to parents;
- Be up to date with research on teaching methods and subjects;
- Set a good example through their presentation and conduct;
- Be proficient in information technology;
- Know how to identify and assess children with special needs.

Mrs Shephard said. David Blunkett, Labour's education spokesman, said: "The Tories promised in their 1979 manifesto to reform teacher training. It is unbelievable that it has taken 18 years and seven secretaries of state to get this far."

Teachers generally welcomed the announcement, though Rowie Shaw, of the National Association of Head Teachers, said it is "based on a political slant" and added: "There has been no conclusive research to prove that in this country interactive, whole-class teaching is the one teaching method which will raise standards."

Professor Ted Wragge, of the University of Exeter's department of education, said: "This is banal and self-evident. One of our studies, showed, for instance, that student teachers are already spending half their time on whole-class teaching."

Leading article, page 13

[illegible]

Teacher Health of Phone

[illegible]

HOUSE IN
SAVE UP TO **50%** on
LONDON & HOME
£100,000 Savings for
Premium Only £1
FREE Premium in month
0345 125
to arrange a visit
Contact us on the Internet, 0800 125 125

Women's groups set doorstep test for candidates

Barrie Clement
Labour Editor

Women's groups aim to distribute a "check-list" to all 23 million female voters to test the commitment of candidates in the general election and their political parties to equal opportunities.

The plan to put equality issues centre-stage for the hustings was announced yesterday as a survey by National Opinion Polls showed that seven out of ten women – and more than five in ten men – believed that the political parties did not pay enough attention to issues that were important to women.

The Women's National Commission – an 8-million strong umbrella organisation for groups ranging from townswomen's guilds to trade unions – is to send out the 10-point check-list to all its affiliates who will distribute it among their members and encourage all women to "keep it by the front door" so that they can confront political canvassers.

The 10 questions that "every prospective MP needs to answer" include inquiries about childcare, low wages, domestic violence, health care and the fact that fewer than one in ten MPs are women.

Together with the women's commission, the equal opportunities commissions for Britain and Northern Ireland yesterday launched a campaign of political awareness under the theme: "There is nothing more dangerous than a woman's vote ignored." Significantly, the initiative has been endorsed by the women's section of the Conservative Party, which by any objective measure performs worse than any other party in terms of the checklist.

However, Kamlesh Bahl, chairwoman of the Equal Opportunities Commission, was careful yesterday to avoid being accused of party political bias.

She insisted that it was the duty of her organisations to set out the issues rather than tell people how to vote. But on her organisation's key policy of reform of equality legislation, the Tory party was the only one out of the three main political parties to reject such a strategy.

Ms Bahl said the campaign, the National Agenda for Action, had already succeeded in prompting politicians to think hard about their policies. "For the first time we are making sure that the issues which really matter to women are being put at the heart of the political process."

"This new poll is saying that women are being ignored by the political parties. The votes of women will be critical in deciding the next government and politicians can no longer neglect their views." The commissions will publish an assessment of each election manifesto.

Liz Budge, co-chair of the Women's National Commission, pointed out that a high proportion of floating voters were women and that therefore the political parties could not afford to ignore their views.

The NOP poll showed that 75 per cent of 25- to 54-year-olds – the core of female voters – were the most dissatisfied with the parties. Researchers found the least dissatisfaction in East Anglia, where only 40 per cent said the parties were ignoring women's issues. Ms Bahl commented that such a result was probably prompted by the fact that the pay gap between men and women was at its lowest in that part of the country.

Top dogs take a walk in the park for Crufts



In black and white: Two Crufts winners from last year meeting in Green Park, central London, yesterday to launch Crufts 1997, to be held at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham from 6-9 March. Albert, the cocker spaniel, was Best in Show and Faith, a bichon frise, won the international junior handler class. Photograph: Andrew Burman

It's a nasty habit.



Every week, enough litter is dropped in our streets to fill about 7,000 skips.

This isn't just unsightly. It can be a danger to everyone, especially children. The Tidy Britain Group's National Spring

Clean Campaign in April will be one of the biggest environmental events of the year.

However, you can join the millions who are cleaning up their act all year round.

Find out more by calling 0345 86 86 86, or cut out the coupon.

Title _____ Initials _____ Surname _____
Address _____
Postcode _____ Please tick if you would like to receive further information. ☐
Send to: Helping Your Environment, PO Box 200, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 9ZZ.

TAKING ACTION AGAINST LITTER... Helping your environment



The Ecolabel.

Helping you choose the more environmentally friendly products.

Energy Saving Trust

Promoting, advising and helping you make the energy efficient choice.



Tidy Britain Group.

Helping to achieve a litter-free environment.



Going for Green.

Making a world of difference - together.



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

Safeguarding and improving the environment.

*In Scotland - the Scottish Environment Protection Agency.

Supported by

DEPARTMENT OF THE

ENVIRONMENT

Teachers fear health hazards of phone masts

Lacey Ward
Education Correspondent

Children's health and security could be threatened by the growing number of mobile telephone aerials being sited on school buildings, a teaching union is warning.

The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT) is preparing to issue guidance to all schools advising them not to agree to install the aerial masts amid concern over their safety.

Research into the effects of the electromagnetic fields emitted by the masts has failed to disprove claims that exposure to the fields can cause cancer. The four mobile phone companies say they are operating within nationally set safety limits and deny any threat to health.

The union also fears that the aerials present a security risk, since schools are obliged to allow engineers on site for servicing and repairs.

Mobile phone operators anxious to spread their networks across the country offer schools as much as £4,000 a year in return for siting the masts on their roofs or in their grounds.

More than 200 schools and further-education colleges have so far signed mast contracts, some agreeing to keep them for 12 years. However, at least one school is engaged in a legal battle after deciding to back out of a contract on safety grounds.

The NASUWT, which has put its case to the Health and Safety Executive, is to urge schools not to sign aerial contracts until research proves they are safe.

Simon Whitney, NASUWT county secretary in Norfolk, said British research had given the masts a clean bill of health but studies in the United States had raised questions. He said: "If there is even the slightest risk of cancer then these aerials should be kept well away from children."

The phone operators deny the masts are unsafe, citing an investigation by the National Radiological Protection Board which concluded that "there is no convincing evidence that electromagnetic fields cause cancer". However, the NRPB and a European Commission study last year both said existing research was inadequate to allow firm conclusions.

A spokesman for Cellnet, which has 1,700 aerials countrywide including around 25 on schools, said: "There is no proven link between masts and any health effects whatsoever." He dismissed concerns over security, saying engineers entered schools only by appointment and always carried identification.

Vodafone, the largest operator which has 130 masts on schools, and Orange also dismissed health concerns. One2One, the smallest operator, said it put masts on school buildings only as a last resort.

HOUSE INSURANCE

SAVE 50% OR UP TO 10% MORE
ON LONDON & HOME COUNTIES
£100,000 Buildings Sum Insured
Premium Only £154.00
LOWER Premiums in most Other Areas
0345 123111
We can change all your rates
Ask for a quote on the internet: <http://www.hhh.co.uk>

Hill House Hammond
Cutting The Cost Of Your Insurance

international

Kinkel parries Russia's call for veto over Nato

Phil Reeves
Moscow

Every world class fixture has a warm-up act, and the encounter between Madeleine Albright and Russia is no exception. As an indignant Moscow awaited the new US Secretary of State, the second act on the bill climbed into the ring yesterday.

Germany's Foreign Secretary, Klaus Kinkel, He came to spar with his counterpart, Yevgeny Primakov, over Nato expansion in the hope of softening up the Kremlin before the small but determined figure of Ms Albright and her bandwagon hoves into view tomorrow.

At least one new condition was discussed and won Russian approval – the prospect of an informal accord outlining the principles of Moscow's relationship with the alliance, to be signed before the July summit in Madrid, when Nato unveils its new members.

Germany is closer to Russia than any other Western power, and has pursued a more conciliatory line over Nato than the United States. But Mr Kinkel is unlikely to have departed much from Ms Albright's main script – yes to a Russia-Nato council and no to a Russian veto over Nato affairs.

His mission coincided with a sharp rise in the volume of the Nato debate in Russia. It has become the issue of the hour, with the exception of the future of Boris Yeltsin. Moscow's fractious political elite is almost unanimously opposed to the alliance's eastward march, which has left Russia feeling threatened and at risk of a surge in anti-Western, nationalist sentiment.

No doubt sensing differences within Nato's 16 members, the Russians have been pressing their case harder than ever. This week Mr Primakov told Russia's NTV that Russia's concerns could be met by revising the

Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty to specify national arms limits, thus restricting Nato's ability to introduce extra troops and weaponry to its new territory.

And Russia is continuing to press for the right to exercise specific control over the alliance's activities. Mr Primakov stressed that Moscow regards it as "mandatory" that the two sides have a legally binding charter defining Russia's relations with the alliance, though Nato has pledged to refuse anything that smacks of a veto.

Yesterday, Igor Ivanov, the deputy foreign minister, weighed in with an interview with the Interfax news agency: "If you think that it is impossible to build or think of true security in Europe without Russia – and everyone is saying that today – let us put it down. Let us find a form in which decisions on fundamental European security matters would be made jointly by Nato and Russia."

Whilst the Nato debate will dominate the headlines, huge interest will also focus on the performance of Mr Yeltsin.

These are testing times. One paper, *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, has alleged that his wife, Naina, has been urging him to stand down, a report which prompted the Kremlin to accuse the reporter of "H G Wells" style fiction and to revoke his accreditation. Ominous rumours have been circulating of Mr Yeltsin's 66th birthday party, most of which he is said to have spent stretched out on a couch.

Looking puffy-faced but relatively alert, Mr Yeltsin yesterday met Yasser Arafat. But it will take more than a short choreographed public appearance to convince the world he is well enough to govern.

The biggest hurdle comes on 6 March, when he is to deliver his state-of-the-nation address to parliament. After that, it is the Helsinki summit with Bill Clinton on 20 March.

Christopher Bellamy on problems Nato enlargement presents

Are they ready?

It will not be necessary for new members to buy a lot of Western equipment, but they must be able to communicate. Nato has committed itself to not extending its "infrastructure" into the territory of new members. But, realistically, some new infrastructure, if only secure communications, will be necessary. A fundamental question is whether applicants have enough people who can speak English and French – and whether they have a professional corps of non-commissioned officers.

Can they pay?

In spring, all Nato countries will investigate credentials of potential new members. That will include analysis of the costs of enlargement. In addition to bearing the cost of upgrading their armed forces, new members will have to pay a "subvention" to Nato budgets. The UK currently pays about 10 per cent of the budget and the US 25 per cent (\$147m). Contributions will fall if new members join. But US sources insist new members will "not be required to fight World War III" – so contributions can be kept modest.

Will they be accepted?

Nato enlargement has to be ratified by the legislatures of all 16 members, including two-thirds of the US Senate. Powerful interests in Turkey have already threatened to refuse to ratify if Turkey's ambitions to join the EU are frustrated. A majority of one against in any national parliament could veto. Each member must make a judgment based on its own criteria, and the 16 must be unanimous. If they are, it will be a minor miracle, but the US, which provides a quarter of Nato funds, will have influence.

Can they all join?

Realistically, Nato will keep the invitation list as short as possible: the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland are likely. Slovenia and Romania are possible. The Baltic states (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) would like to join. But it is likely they will not be invited in the foreseeable future because Russia would regard it as unacceptable. In exchange, Russia might be prepared to live with the accession of the most westerly countries of the former Warsaw Pact. But Nato is adamant the door must remain open.

Will Russia react?

Nato insists enlargement will happen, whatever Russia says. In fact, Russia cares very much. A Nato-Russia "charter" is seen as a vital precondition to expansion to help assuage Russian concerns that enlargement is hostile. Madeleine Albright's proposal for a joint Nato-Russian brigade is another indicator that Russia must be brought in from the cold. Russia will want other concessions, too: progress on the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe and reassurances on nuclear weapons.

Will Nato expand?

Getting 16 nations to agree takes time – Nato found this out in Bosnia. Nine-teen or more could be more cumbersome. Nato officials insist there will be no "second-class" members and the Nato security guarantee – an attack on one is an attack on all – applies to all. Nato leaders insist there is no point in expanding if it makes it weaker, though many would argue enlargement will do so. The US stresses Nato was always diverse, and that if it is going to stand still at 16, it might as well not exist.



Nato troops on exercise: The alliance's eastward march makes Russia feel isolated

Photograph: Herbie Knott

Swiss close in on Italian vegetable fraud

Berne (Reuters) — Swiss authorities are closing in on a smuggling operation involving illegal transport of vegetables, the Swiss Federal tariff authority and the Swiss federal finance ministry said last Tuesday.

"From 1994 to 1996, various firms smuggled 2,165 tons of vegetables worth an estimated 3m Swiss francs (£1.25m) from Italy into Switzerland," the authorities said.

The illegal operation is alleged to involve 15 vegetable wholesale companies in Switzerland, four Italian suppliers and a large cold-storage transport firm.

"Investigations are near completion. Import restrictions and duty regulations were violated," the authorities said.

Vegetables involved included potatoes, carrots, tomatoes, beans, onions, endive, cauliflower and leeks. In some cases the foodstuffs were found to be falsely labelled as oranges or lemons, which attract much less duty.

Jewish settlement rekindles danger of West Bank uprising

Jerusalem — The construction of a Jewish settlement on the green hill of Har Homa, between Jerusalem and Bethlehem, is starting to provoke a fresh crisis in relations between Israel and the Palestinians.

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, is likely to approve within the next few weeks the construction of a Jewish neighbourhood with an initial population of at least 25,000 on land captured by Israel in 1967 Israeli officials say. "I fear that it will bring a wave of uprisings," says Faisal Husseini, the Palestinian leader in Jerusalem. "What happened after the opening of the Western Wall tunnel is nothing compared to what is liable to happen now."

Har Homa is a long steep hill covered with dark green pine trees, set between the predominantly Christian Palestinian township of Beit Sahour outside the city and the Jewish suburb of Jerusalem called Ramat Rachel. Designated a "green area" by Israel after 1967, it was expropriated in 1991. There have been continuing skirmishes between Israeli soldiers

Plans for new town have provoked a crisis, writes Patrick Cockburn

and Palestinian farmers who have lost their land. About 6,500 apartments will be built under the first phase of the project, but the overall plan is to expand the settlement to house 70,000 people.

Mr Netanyahu is under intense pressure to begin work at Har Homa from parts of his own right-wing coalition, who are nervous that he is backsliding over his election pledge not to make any compromises with the Palestinians over Jerusalem.

Ehud Olmert, the mayor of Jerusalem, has threatened to send in bulldozers on his own account to start construction work. "No Israeli politician has ever lost a vote by being too tough on Jerusalem," says Danny Seidemann, a lawyer opposing the project before the courts on behalf of local Palestinian communities and the Israeli peace group, Ir Shalem.

It is not clear how Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader,

will react if construction goes ahead. Unlike the opening of the tunnel in the Old City of Jerusalem last September, which provoked fighting in

No Israeli politician has ever lost any votes by being tough on Jerusalem

which 15 Israelis and 61 Palestinians died. Har Homa is not close to any Muslim religious shrines. On the other hand Ami Ayalon, the head of the Shin Bet security agency, said yesterday that even if Mr Arafat did not want violence, ordinary Palestinians might still react



Israeli settlements in East Jerusalem

- EXPANDING SETTLEMENTS**
- 1 Har Homa: New housing for 30,000 settlers
 - 2 Pigat Ze'ev: to add 20,000 settlers within two years
 - 3 Ramat: plans to expand
 - 4 Rehovot Shalom: housing for 10,000 new Orthodox Jews
 - 5 Old city: 35-70 properties in Muslim quarter acquired
 - 6 Neve Ya'akov: expanding housing
 - 7 Maale Adumim: expanding housing, 2 miles east of city
- SETTLEMENTS WITHOUT GROWTH**
- 8 French Hill, Ramat Eshkol, Maaleh Tnuva, Mt Scopus
 - 9 East Talpuz
 - 10 Gilo

strongly "because of the volatility of the Jerusalem situation". Har Homa occupies a strategic location. "It is the place, not the numbers, which matter," says Professor Amiram Gonen, a specialist on the geography of Jerusalem. He says Har Homa would complete a rampart of Jewish settlements on the southern boundary of the city, breaking the continuity of Palestinian neighbourhoods. About 78 per cent of the 600,000 people in Jerusalem are Jewish. But this figure is deceptive, Professor Gonen points out that in the metropolitan area of the city, Jews make up only 55 per cent.

Mr Netanyahu appears eager to avoid a confrontation over Har Homa, which might undo his efforts to present a more moderate image in the aftermath of the partial Israeli withdrawal from Hebron. Danny Seidemann says: "The same people who failed to stop the peace process by voting against the Hebron agreement are now

trying to do the same thing by building at Har Homa." In contrast to Hebron, however, the building of a new settlement in Jerusalem enjoys strong support from centrist politicians like Ehud Barak, expected to be the Labour party's next leader.

Har Homa is not the only sign that the struggle for Jerusalem is heating up. The 170,000 Palestinians in the city say Israel is stepping up efforts to deprive them of Jerusalem identity papers, if they go abroad for work or study. Some who were born in Jerusalem but who have foreign passports have been told they must choose between their Jerusalem identity papers and their passport.

Because of the growing insecurity of their position an increasing number of Palestinians in Jerusalem have taken up Israeli citizenship, which they rejected in the past. The campaign to reduce the number of Palestinians in Jerusalem is gathering pace.

Palestine looks at membership of Commonwealth

Patrick Cockburn
Jerusalem

Will Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, attend future Commonwealth conferences? The problem is that the Palestinian Authority is not a sovereign state and the Commonwealth has no associate membership. Once the Palestinians achieve self-determination, however, the Commonwealth Secretary-General Emeka Anyaoku sees no obstacle to Palestine becoming the 54th member of the organisation.

The issue of associate membership was raised by Afif Safieh, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) representative to Britain, at a meeting in London last weekend. Despite British control between the wars over large parts of the Middle East, there are no Commonwealth members from the region, although Yemen has applied to join. "Maybe the PLO is rather far sighted in not considering the organisation an empire under a new guise," Michael Fathers, the spokesman for the Commonwealth secretariat, said yesterday.

Mozambique, never part of the British empire, joined the Commonwealth in 1995, and the case for the membership of a Palestinian state, assuming one eventually emerges, is historically much stronger. Relics of the British presence prior to handing over to the United Nations in 1948 survive in Israel and the occupied territories. When Israeli troops withdrew from most of Hebron last month they pulled out of a grim fortress on a hill overlooking the city which the authorities had built during the unhappy 30 years of British rule.

The advantages of Commonwealth membership to the Palestinians is a little unclear since Mr Arafat and the Palestinian non-state has greater access to world leaders than most states belonging to the UN. Commonwealth foreign ministers have delayed taking action against Nigeria, which has been suspended from the group because of the military government's execution of dissidents.

The Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) ended a two-day meeting in London last Tuesday saying it was inviting more information from "all interested parties" before writing up a report for the Commonwealth summit in Edinburgh next October.

listen

LOW COST INTERNATIONAL CALLS

USA 10p

Australia 20p

South Africa 40p

India 60p

* NEW PER SECOND BILLING *

FLAT RATES ALL PRICES ARE IN PENCE PER MINUTE

SWIFTCALL	SWIFTCALL
USA 10p	USA 10p
Australia 20p	Australia 20p
South Africa 40p	South Africa 40p
India 60p	India 60p

Pre payment of £25 entitles you to £25 of Swiftcall talktime. That's over 4 hrs to the USA.

Access to our network is easy. All you need is a touch tone phone to call our international exchange FREE from anywhere in the U.K.

CALL US NOW

For information on hundreds of other destinations and to open an account

FREEPHONE 0800 769 0000

Please ask for extension 526

If you are reading this advert outside the UK, call 011 769 0000

New phonecards available at all good newsagents. Distributors urgently required to cope with massive demand. CALL NOW!

Operators are standing by 24hrs a day 7 days a week ready to take your call. Please have your credit card ready. Comparisons against B.T. standard weekday rates. Subject to change at 30 days notice. Prices correct at Feb 19th 1997.

150 من الاصل

Britain faces veto clash with Brussels

Sarah Helm
Brussels

Britain faces new conflict with Brussels following proposals published yesterday to abolish use of the veto in 25 new policy areas. Among areas where unanimity could be abolished are culture, industry and the environment, says a draft proposal on European Union reform published yesterday by the Netherlands, which holds the presidency.

It also sets out the first detailed plans for building a hard-core Europe, using "flexibility". It suggests the veto may not be maintained for "flexibility", which means Britain could lose the power to stop other countries speeding ahead.

Two options are set out under which hard-core countries could proceed after agreement by qualified majority. Only one option is presented for voting by unanimity. The document confirms British fears that other states are determined to find ways of speeding integration without being held back by objectors. It will form the basis of tough negotiating before final decisions at the European summit in Amsterdam in June.

Under one option, fast-track power-sharing could be applied to several core areas of policy-making, listed as economic and monetary union, including indirect taxation; environmental standards; health and safety of workers and areas of immigration and justice policy.

Applying flexibility to EMU is important to several member-states keen to ensure countries which join the single currency should have the power to use fast-track decisions, to speed future economic integration. Several member-states envisage a need for greater harmonisation of tax and social security once the single currency is running.

The last chance they have to secure a treaty change, creating this power, before the launch of monetary union will be in June. In perhaps their most groundbreaking initiative, the Dutch supported the drive for speedier integration within the Euro-zone. They insisted the veto would, in general, never be lifted for policy-making on direct taxation, regional funding and constitutional matters.

The European Commission has been reluctant to accept application of flexibility to areas in the "first pillar" of EU decision making, which includes EMU, for fear the entire union would fragment as a result.

However, it is clear the phrasing in the Dutch document is broad enough to allow countries to adopt fast-track "flexible" decision-making in any areas of EMU policy-making they choose, including direct tax and social security.

John Major has insisted Britain would not give up the veto in any new policy areas and Tony Blair has said Labour would accept an extension of qualified majority voting (QMV) to limited areas, citing industry, research, social policy and environment. Several of the 25 areas listed in the Dutch document as a "working basis" for extension of QMV are highly technical, such as development of research and training, and laws governing professions.

Mr Major has favoured flexibility in principle but insisted Britain should have the right to veto any decision by core groups of countries to move ahead alone.

■ Strasbourg — The European Commission president, Jacques Santer, fighting to avoid consensus for the way it handled the "mad-cow" crisis, offered the European Parliament a package of veto over EU health policy, *Reuter reports.*



Close up: The Russian president, Boris Yeltsin, covering his face during a visit to Chechnya in May last year. The picture, by Dmitry Donskoi, has been chosen as the photograph of the year in Russia. Photograph: Reuters

Rifkind warns Germany on EU

Imre Karacs
Bonn

Britain's Foreign Secretary sets off on a journey to the heart of Europe today, carrying an anti-federalist message to the citizens of Federal Germany.

Malcolm Rifkind's stated purpose is to address the people of Europe directly, above the heads of their governments, and warn them of nefarious plans to rob them of their power. The German government, he is expected to tell an invited audience in Bonn, is proposing changes to the Maastricht treaty that would remove popular control over many aspects of policy, and would inevitably lead to a super-state. Judging from statements Mr

Rifkind has already given to the German press, there will be little room for diplomatic niceties in his speech.

"What we will not accept — and many millions of Europeans are with us — is the attempt to create a United States of Europe," the Foreign Secretary said in an interview to be published today by *Bild*, the country's biggest tabloid.

The push towards a US of E is coming from Bonn, he will tell Germans. Their government's proposals at the inter-governmental Conference are designed to achieve this aim, and if Germany were to prevail in its arguments, elected national parliaments would be abolished.

Mr Rifkind will refute accusations that Britain is only in-

terested in the EU as a free-trade zone, but will stress that London will only tolerate integration outside the economic domain if it is practicable and does not lead to further centralisation. "There are limits, national sensibilities and a bottom line," said diplomatic sources.

The boundaries have been marked out in inter-governmental haggling behind closed doors for the past year, and now the Foreign Secretary plans to bring them into the open. Britain is vehemently opposed to the abolition of member states' right of veto in home affairs and justice, and in foreign and security policy.

Mr Rifkind will read out a list of German proposals which he considers anathema. Apart

from trying to extend majority voting, Bonn stands accused of striving for a greater role for the European Parliament — to be elected on a common electoral system; a Continent-wide police authority; a more powerful European Court of Justice; and further integration of defence.

At least the Foreign Secretary will not delve into the discrepancy between Bonn's ambitions and the shallowness of its pockets, though he is expected to mention "real issues" that concern ordinary people, such as unemployment. What gloating there is, can be gleaned from his *Bild* interview, in which he contrasts Germany's record jobless rate with Britain's, singling out the Social Chapter for particular odium.

significant shorts

Bid to bar testimony in Oklahoma bomb case

Lawyers for Timothy McVeigh, accused of killing 168 people in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, tried to bar the testimony of six witnesses, including a farmer who linked Mr McVeigh and co-defendant Terry Nichols to the purchase of fertiliser to make the bomb, and the owner of a Kansas garage where Mr McVeigh allegedly rented the truck to carry it. The defence say their recollections were tainted by film of Mr McVeigh, being jeered by a crowd and escorted by guards, that was shown repeatedly on television. His trial is to start on in March; Mr Nichols will be tried separately. *Tim Cornwell — Los Angeles*

Peking says Deng unchanged

China's State Council said it had not heard of any change in the condition of Deng Xiaoping, despite reports suggesting he may have taken a severe turn for the worse. In Yorba Linda, California, the former secretary of state Henry Kissinger said the US should support Peking over its resumed control of Hong Kong. "The Chinese can have no conceivable interest in (seeing Hong Kong) disintegrate economically and politically." *AP — Peking*

Tax break for swindle victims

President Sali Berisha of Albania waived all taxes for two years for residents of Lushnje region to help them after they lost money to fraudulent pyramid-investment schemes. The town was swept by rioting after the schemes collapsed last month. *Reuter — Lushnje*

Pyongyang writes off defector

In an apparent further softening on the case of Hwang Jang Yop, a high-ranking defector holed up in the South Korean consulate in Peking, the North Korean leader, Kim Jong Il, said in a radio broadcast that "cowards" who wished to leave should go ahead. *AP — Tokyo*

Juppé overture on migrant law

The French Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, hinted that he might strike a deal in the face of opposition to an immigration bill that would oblige citizens to tell the police when foreign guests left their home. *Reuter — Paris*

Deaf on the Nile

Cairo plans to enforce anti-noise measures that could silence Koranic verses blaring from mosques but will allow all target the drivers of cars, buses and vans that honk their horns with abandon. *AP — Cairo*

Sobhraj charges to be dropped

India decided to drop all pending charges against the criminal Charles Sobhraj and pressed for his deportation to France. A special prosecutor moved an application to withdraw a jailbreak case against Sobhraj and said permission was being sought to withdraw all other charges to pave the way for deportation. *Reuter — New Delhi*

Meters expire

Row upon row of parking meters in the US capital stand headless, decapitated by assailants who thereby deprive a near-bankrupt city of even the small change it sorely needs. Harold Brazill, a councillor and possible mayoral candidate, declared "all-out war" on vandals with baseball bats, crowbars or hammers who have hashed more than 2,200 of the 15,777 meters. *Reuter — Washington*

High-taxed Danes fear for their home-grown model

Copenhagen — Gazing down over the Danish Parliament a tall, elegant woman stands in her office, at the top of the national Bank of Denmark, musing about the evolution of the Danish "social model". Why is it that Danes are prepared to pay such high taxes, and to let the state distribute their wealth? Nothing symbolises the special Danish way of doing things more than the fact that the country has placed two women in charge of its money. Bodil Nyboe Andersen is governor of the Bank of Denmark, and Marianne Jelved is economics minister.

Sarah Helm concludes her series with a report on Denmark's view of EMU

"It is true we probably have the most egalitarian society in Europe," says Mrs Nyboe Andersen. "But I can't answer why it happened this way here. It just did — it is an evolution which has lasted more than 150 years. It is a question of faith — do you think one way is better than the other. We are not saying ours should be copied." So what would happen to the Danish model if the country joined the single currency and

succumbed to economic and monetary harmonisation? Those matters, Mrs Nyboe Andersen says, are "political" — a ruse, used by many Danes in sensitive positions, to avoid answering the big question: will Denmark join economic and monetary union?

The answer, on the face of it, is clearly no. The Danes, like the British, secured an opt-out from the single currency after Maastricht. But the Danes went even further than Britain — they chose to exercise the opt-out, deciding not to enter at the 1999 launch.

As the deadline approaches, however, some believe Danish resolve to remain out of EMU is faltering. The Danish opt-out could be reversed — after a referendum — in time to join a second wave, perhaps in 2002. If EMU is a success Denmark will not be able to resist joining, say diplomats. It will be part of a second wave, probably coming in along with Britain, Ireland, Sweden, Italy, Spain and Portugal.

Denmark today provides both a model for those striving for monetary union — and a model for those who believe it is better to stay outside.

Along with Luxembourg and Ireland, Denmark is one of only three countries which meet all the Maastricht economic criteria. The country will balance its public deficit books next year. Unemployment is at 6 per cent, according to Commission figures, and growth is between 2.5-3 per cent.

Denmark reviewed its public spending in the early 1980s, when it carried out many of the painful adjustments which other countries are undergoing today. The country then set up a "stability pact" to control public spending, which is something of a forerunner of the EMU stability pact.

While Denmark's success shows the Maastricht way works, however, it also raises questions about the necessity of any deeper economic union which could lead to a levelling of European tax and welfare systems. Denmark has managed to maintain fiscal discipline while

keeping to its own unique policies of high tax and high state provision. Income tax, along with environmental taxes and high VAT, mean everyone loses at least 60 per cent of their salary in tax. In return, all health care is provided for and public education is of the highest standard, with private schools available only for special needs.

Although Denmark is making adjustments to improve labour market flexibility, it still is able to offer every worker a six-month sabbatical and early retirement on virtually full pay. When it comes to the crunch, however, Danes may not be so sentimental about their welfare state. "Taxes on everything" is a

Green taxes are scorned as a way of raising revenue, not to clean water

regular cry. Green taxes are scorned as a means for the government to raise revenue, not to clean the water.

Pro-Europeans, such as Uffe Elleman-Jensen, the former foreign minister say Danes will see sense and accept the single currency once they realise the country will lose influence over European economic policy-making by remaining outside. The country would also risk exchange rate instability. "As soon as Danes start crossing the border to go shopping with euros in Germany they will realise it makes sense," he says.

Mrs Nyboe Andersen seems less sure. "I don't think we should over-estimate the economic costs of staying out," she says. "We already accept the economic policy and would continue to follow it. Although there is a political cost to be paid if we have no influence over decision-making."

If the messages from the political elite remain so unsure, it seems unlikely that Danes will be persuaded to say "yes" to the euro in the near future.

Engineers must be aged 18 or over in order to safeguard our customers, certain transactions may require written confirmation. First Direct reserves the right to decline to open an account for you. First Direct credit facilities are subject to credit checks. For written details of our services write to First Direct, Freepost, Leeds, LS98 1FD. First Direct is a division of Midland Bank plc. Calls may be monitored and/or recorded. LLOYDS Cheque Account details are based on the Classic Account. The costs comprise fees of 53p per month. BARCLAYS Cheque Account details are based on the Barclays Bank Account. The costs comprise fees of 53p per month. NAT WEST Cheque Account details are based on the Current Plus Account. The costs comprise fees of 53p per month. All information based on overdrafts of 5 days or more per month and correct at 27 January 1997, but fees may vary. Member HSBC Group

Why pay bank charges when First Direct is free?

Annual current account charges	
NatWest Current Plus	£108.00
Lloyds Classic	£96.00
Barclays Bank Account	£60.00
First Direct Cheque Account	£0.00

Free from charges
We are the UK's leading 24 hour personal telephone bank, a member of the HSBC Group which is one of the largest banking and financial services organisations in the world. We never charge Cheque Account customers for everyday transactions, even if they're overdrawn. So banking with us costs much less.

Open all hours
We're always open, so you can do all your banking when and where it suits you. All calls are personally answered by our Banking Representatives and all UK calls are charged at local rates.

Free banking and much more
You also get a fee free £250 overdraft, the First Direct Card — guaranteeing cheques for £100 and allowing cash withdrawals of up to £500 from over 11,500 cash machines in the UK, including those of Midland — and a hassle free automated bill payment service.

Why pay more for other services?
We can satisfy your other banking needs — saving, borrowing, travel and insurance — by telephone too. As well as saving you money we provide better, more easily arranged services, so giving you real convenience and flexibility.

It's easy to join
We make changing your financial arrangements easy too. Easy to open a First Direct Cheque Account, easy to arrange for your salary to be paid in and easy for all your standing orders and direct debits to be transferred to your account. And it's easy to find out more right now. Call us on 0800 24 24 24 or complete the coupon.

Now ask yourself are you with the right bank?

call free 0800 24 24 24

or complete the coupon and post to:
First Direct, FREPOST, Leeds, LS98 1FD

Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms or Title _____

Surname _____

Forename(s) _____

UK Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone No _____

Wherever you break down in the UK we can reach you quickly from just £29.50* per year.

Choose from 4 levels of cover	
Recovery only	£29.50
Roadside assistance	£38.00
Comprehensive	£65.50
Total protection	£89.50

Call free now on 0800 001 353 quoting ref A3102

Green Flag
Motorist Assistance
WE LEAVE EVERYONE STRANDING BUT YOU.

DIRECT LINE INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNT

UP TO **5.75% GROSS**

Small space. Big savings rate. **DIRECTLINE**

Call one of the numbers below for high interest with instant access.

0181 667 1121 0161 833 1121 0141 221 1121
LONDON MANCHESTER GLASGOW

CALL ANYTIME from 9am Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. A Royal Bank of Scotland company. Please quote ref. IND45

*5.75% gross paid on balances of £25,000 or more (subject to verification). Rates correct as at 19 February 1997. Credit may be withdrawn for your initial security deposit and the real rate will be applied to the balance of your account. Please read the full terms and conditions on the back of the card.

WIFTCAL

669 0000

extension 33

international

SA rugby coach sacked over racist outburst

Mary Braid
Johannesburg

Andre Markgraaff, South Africa's national rugby coach, resigned last night following the broadcasting of a tape on national television in which he apparently called black rugby officials and politicians "fucking Kaffirs".

Mr Markgraaff said he had quit in the interests of South African rugby and of national reconciliation. "I'm not making any excuses," he said. "I was very emotional at the time. I apologise to the black people of this country and to the whites for causing them embarrassment."

The recording of a conversation between a rugby official and a player was allegedly made in October during the national outcry about Mr Markgraaff's axing of Francois Pienaar, the popular team captain.

The tape, aired on SABC television on Monday night, despite threats of court action, became public three days after the government launched an investigation into alleged mismanagement and racism in the Afrikaans-dominated sport. Dr Louis Luyt, the controversial president of the South African Rugby Football Union (Sarf), is refusing to co-operate with the probe.

Few will regret Mr Markgraaff's downfall. Along with Dr Luyt, he became a national hate figure overnight for his treatment of Pienaar. The resignation is another body blow for a sport which just two years ago held the promise of a social miracle. Every South African remembers the moment in 1995 when

Nelson Mandela, sporting a Springbok shirt - for so long a symbol of oppression to blacks - passed the Rugby World Cup to Pienaar.

That moment marked more than South Africa's triumphant return to the international arena after years of sporting isolation. Yesterday,



Markgraaff: Quit in interest of national reconciliation

Mr Markgraaff apologised specifically to President Mandela.

Mr Mandela's gesture was an inspired move in South Africa's quest for racial reconciliation. In the run-up to the 1994 democratic elections, the rugby terraces had become the stage for ugly racist displays of white defiance at the coming political change. In embracing the sport, Mr Mandela indicated he believed it now had the makings of a truly national game.

Pienaar, like Mr Mandela, showed

vision. He encouraged the team - all white bar one coloured player - to learn the Xhosa words to *Shosholaza*, the stirring black miners' song which Mr Mandela sang during his years of hard labour on Robben Island and until then the anthem of predominantly black football fans. But the intoxicating optimism about the future of rugby - and racial harmony in South Africa - finally evaporated with Pienaar's sacking.

Critics, some from the ranks of the coloured rugby union which merged with white rugby bodies after the fall of apartheid, claimed the sport was still being run by a cabal, which through racism and sheer love of power was doing little to open the sport up to blacks. How had cricket managed to make an impact in the townships when rugby had failed so dismally, it was asked?

Brian van Rooyen, a coloured rugby official challenged Dr Luyt for the presidency of the Transvaal Rugby Union in the wake of Pienaar's sacking. He lost but promised to continue his fight to make the management of rugby transparent. "I want to pave the way for a team that my sons might one day play for," he says.

Pienaar left South Africa after his sacking to join the English club, Saracens. Mr Mandela invited him over for a farewell lunch. Since then, those who used the national outcry to focus attention on the wider shortcomings of the game have been working quietly behind the scenes.

The tape is connected with a 500-

page dossier Mr van Rooyen has just handed over to the government, questioning among other things, the payment of commissions on rugby sponsorship and television deals. The government has since launched its inquiry.

Yesterday morning, Mr Markgraaff was still holding out at his farm in Kimberly while Dr Luyt was insisting that there was no room in rugby for racism and that action would be taken against Mr Markgraaff if indeed he made the remarks.

However, Mr Markgraaff's resignation is almost certainly not the end of the matter.

The critics of Sarf and Dr Luyt are just warming up. If Mr van Rooyen, who claims he has been threatened since he presented his dossier, has his way, Mr Markgraaff will not be the only official to be released to spend more time with his family.

The ANC has said that the tape reinforces "the perception that conservative elements within Sarf are resisting the transformation of the union into a non-racial society".

It is a trend that is not confined to the rugby field.

South African sports commentators believe that if the ANC has lost patience it is no surprise.

"The fact is that Sarf has done very little to transform rugby," said one South African sports writer.

"Since the world cup they have got rid of the more liberal elements at the top and retreated back behind the larger."



Glory day: Nelson Mandela presenting the Rugby World Cup to Francois Pienaar, captain of the victorious South African team, in 1995. Markgraaff sacked Pienaar last October. Photograph: Allsport

Nelson rekindles gossip

Cape Town (Reuters) — South African President Nelson Mandela rekindled talk yesterday that he might remarry when he appeared hand-in-hand with his Mozambican sweetheart Graca Machel to meet King Carl Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden.

The King was welcomed by a 21-gun salute outside the Cape Town parliament. Mr Mandela and the Swedish monarch exchanged medals and met privately for 40 minutes at the start of a three-day royal visit, which includes talks with Archbishop

Desmond Tutu, who heads the post-apartheid Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Mr Mandela, 78, last year confirmed his romance with Graca, 51, the widow of former Mozambican president Samora Machel and said they would try to spend two weeks a month together. The couple have appeared in public together in South Africa only twice before and never at a state function.

"This is the first time Mrs Machel has appeared with the President at a state function, but they will be appearing to-

gether a lot more in future," said an official in his office. The media programme for King Carl's three-day state visit had referred only to "President Mandela and his companion".

Reporters had expected the President to be accompanied as usual by one of his daughters. But as Mr Mandela led the King down the steps of his office for a chat with tourists and pedestrians at the gate, it was Mrs Machel who came down with Queen Silvia. Mr Mandela divorced his wife of 38 years, Winnie, 11 months ago.



The Friends Provident Stewardship PEP seeks to avoid investment in companies that harm people, wildlife or our world.



Instead, it seeks to invest in companies that deliver positive benefits to society.

WOULDN'T YOU RATHER HAVE PROFIT WITH PRINCIPLES?

The Friends Provident Stewardship PEP

The Friends Provident Stewardship PEP aims to invest in companies that make a positive contribution to the world we live in. And to avoid companies whose business practices could be harmful to the planet and its people.

Yet this needn't mean avoiding a decent profit.

Over the past 5 years, Stewardship has out-performed the average return for all unit trusts, ethical or not.

Just the kind of performance you would expect from Friends Provident, the UK's leading ethical investment company, which manages around £700 million of ethical investments.

93%
Profit tax free
Five year returns out-perform the average of all unit trusts.

Get on the Blue Line now, direct to Friends Provident. The Blue Line is the fast no-hassle way to get the information you need about this product over the phone to help you make an informed decision. You'll deal with friendly qualified people who will talk to you in clear

straightforward language.

Call 0800 00 00 80 now, or contact your financial adviser, and you'll find that your principles needn't stop you making a profit.

The plus points of profit with principles

- Proven track record with good growth prospects.
- All profits are tax-free.
- Invest a lump sum (minimum £1,000) or monthly payments of £50 or more.
- Managed by the UK's leading ethical investment company.
- Investment in successful companies which are helping rather than harming the world.

Get on the Blue Line

0800 00 00 80

We're here to take your call 8 to 8 Weekdays. 10 to 4 Weekends.

FRIENDS PROVIDENT

FRIENDS PROVIDENT THE BLUE LINE LIMITED IS A REPRESENTATIVE ONLY OF THE FRIENDS PROVIDENT MARKETING GROUP WHICH IS REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY.

THE VALUE OF A UNIT TRUST, AND ANY INCOME FROM IT, IS NOT GUARANTEED AND CAN GO UP AND DOWN DEPENDING ON INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE.

PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY A GUIDE TO THE FUTURE. FULL TERMS AND CONDITIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST. TAX LEGISLATION MAY CHANGE.

*BASED ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE STEWARDSHIP UNIT TRUST OVER 5 YEARS TO THE 30TH DECEMBER 1996. ALL FIGURES ON AN OFFER TO BID BASIS WITH GROSS INCOME REINVESTED. SOURCE: MICROFAL.

YOUR CALL MAY BE RECORDED FOR YOUR SECURITY.

Zaire rebels target Kisangani airport

David Orr
Goma
and agencies

The Zairean rebel leader Laurent Kabila threatened yesterday to attack the country's Kisangani airport, which has been used to bomb three rebel-held towns.

Senior Western diplomats in Africa believe that Mr Kabila's troops are capable of taking the town, Zaire's third largest city and headquarters of the government's bagging counter-offensive. "They'll probably take the city by the end of this month," one said. Strategically located at the headwaters of the country's most significant artery, the River Zaire, Kisangani is viewed as the key to controlling the sprawling interior. Zairean defence officials said that aircraft which bombed the towns of Bukavu, Shabunda and Walikale on Monday took off from Kisangani. Aid officials said that at least nine people were killed and up to 37 wounded in Bukavu, and that thousands of refugees were fleeing.

Mr Kabila yesterday used an interview on French television to issue his threat. "These are terrorist actions," he said of the bombing. "And we are going to get ready to take the war precisely to the place from where the bombers took off."

A senior defence official said that Goma, the biggest city in rebel hands, was the next target. Bombing raids on nearby Bukavu and other parts of eastern Zaire have reignited fears of a concerted government campaign against civilian targets. But among Goma's inhabitants, belief in the rebels' ability to win the war has not been shaken. Billed last month as "total and devastating," the government's counter-offensive has failed to halt the rebel advance.

The fighting is now taking place far to the west, deep in the equatorial rainforest. Since launching their campaign last October, the rebels have taken control of a huge swath of eastern Zaire and renamed it the Democratic Republic of Congo. Not a week goes past without the capture of a new town or strategic junction.

Led by the long-time revolutionary Mr Kabila, the AL-

liance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL) has enjoyed astounding success. With the exception of a couple of initial battles, the Zairean army (FAZ) has hardly been bothered to engage the rebels. Instead, the demoralised troops have retreated, raping and looting on their way.

"We are doing this on our own," ADFL commissioner of information, Raphael Ghenda, said, seated in his office in central Goma. "The arms we have were left behind by the fleeing Zairean army. I can't say where we bought our uniforms. But we have used the riches of the region to support our struggle."

So brazen has the rebel thrust become that Mr Kabila has given President Mobutu Sese Seko until this Friday to resign. If he does not, the rebel leader says he will march his men right across the country and into the capital, Kinshasa.

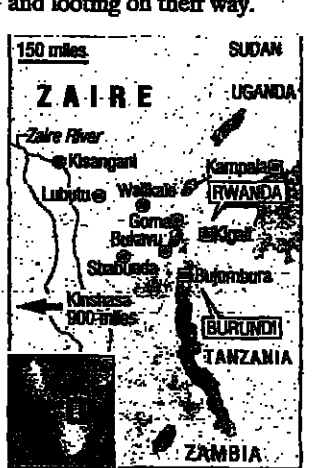
"There's quite a lot of propaganda with this regime," an aid worker in Goma said. "But, so far, everything they've said has come true. If they say they're going to take a town, they take it. In fact, that's part of their strategy - to announce their next step and wait for the FAZ to flee."

A new offensive against Kisangani could have important results. "The effect on the government of the rebels taking Kisangani would be devastating," a high-ranking Western diplomat in the region said. "The negotiations will start if they reach Kisangani." What shape talks might take is difficult to envisage. Despite his precarious state of health after a cancer operation, President Mobutu, 66, has vowed to crush the rebels by force. For his part, Mr Kabila insists that no negotiations can begin until the President stands down.

Anxious to avoid a costly humanitarian crisis in Zaire - the almost inevitable fall-out of prolonged conflict in Africa's third largest country - the United States has been actively engaged in mediating between the two sides. One scenario is that President Mobutu, an old Cold War ally, might be prevailed upon to take his plundered fortune and settle quietly in exile. This would leave the way open for Mr Kabila to make a deal with the legitimate opposition and form an interim government. On one point most observers are in agreement: President Mobutu's star is in decline.

It is not so much that the rebels have succeeded, a Western diplomat in the region said. "It's more a question of the FAZ having failed. They're without logistics, training and a will to fight. Even the mercenaries hired by the government have taken a beating."

Suggestions that the rebels' success could only have been achieved with the backing of Rwanda and Uganda continue to be denied by the ADLF and by the country's eastern neighbours. Western diplomats in the Rwandan capital, Kigali, insist that there is no evidence of direct involvement by either country. Some, however, concede that Rwanda might be providing the rebels with military instructors. Sources inside Zaire



Even the mercenaries hired by the government have taken a beating

preg
at Russia
lands
in Nato
men to decid
gay abortion

Pregnant women and the need to be patient

What would you do? Faced with a heavily pregnant woman suffering from pre-eclampsia which could kill her and the baby, a woman who is refusing all treatment, how would you, the doctor, react? Reports come in that the mother-to-be has been emotionally unstable during the pregnancy, claiming not to care whether she or the baby lives or dies.

In the circumstances, most of us would be tempted to do what the doctors of Ms S did – to carry out the medical treatment she needs to save her life against her will and take the consequences later on. Better to err on the side of saving her life than to abandon her and her foetus to the fate she wished upon them when in no state to make a balanced judgement.

But hang on a minute. This is dangerous ground. If S turns out to have been too seriously mentally ill to give informed consent for medical treatment, then the actions of the courts, doctors and social workers will have been fair enough. But we cannot go around banging women up and operating on them against their will to save the lives of babies they do not care about. Nor can we justify intervening just because their decisions do not seem rational to the rest of us. We have a poor history of judging the

mental health of mothers and of pregnant women according to social rather than medical criteria. Can we be sure we are not doing exactly the same thing again now?

In the circumstances, the doctors' response is understandable. Trained to save lives, they will have wanted to give S the treatment they felt she needed to stop her destroying herself and her unborn child. For make no mistake, pre-eclampsia – the condition S was found to be suffering from – is very serious. Mother and foetus could both have died. It may even be that Ms S is alive to sue today only because she was cut open against her will.

The woman brought into casualty late one Saturday night, after an overdose, will be resuscitated by conscientious nurses and doctors, no matter how much she wanted to die. That's their job. But a fully conscious pregnant woman is different. Unlike the pill-popper, she is awake and able to make her own decision. Nor is she actively inflicting harm on herself, she is simply determined to let nature take its course. When patients can give consent but don't, we don't treat them. Aids patients are not forced on to AZT. The victim of multiple heart attacks is not forced into a heart transplant. No one sections the cancer patient who refuses

radiotherapy, even if death is certain without it.

Admittedly, there are two lives at stake when a woman is pregnant, but that makes no difference to the treatment that doctors can legitimately give. If a fully conscious, fully informed mother-to-be, in full possession of her senses, refuses the treatment that will save her foetus's life, there is nothing that a doctor can legitimately do to intervene.

It is hard. Much as we might want to rescue that foetus, much as we may hate the woman for her decision, we cannot justify intervention. Once the

baby is born, should the mother refuse it life-saving care, then doctors and social workers can take over and edge the mother's judgement out of the picture in the interests of the child. Parents who refuse treatment for a dying son or daughter because of their religious belief should, for example, sometimes be overridden for the sake of their children. But so long as that foetus is inside the womb, then there is still a woman's body that has to be chopped through to give the foetus the treatment it may need. Cutting women open against their will is unacceptable.

The critical phrase, however, is "in full possession of her senses". Here, the world slithers from clear-cut white and black into a murky, muddy grey. Of course we should treat mentally ill people who refuse treatment, but who cannot understand the consequences of that decision. But what counts as mentally ill under these circumstances? Refusing treatment that will save your life seems crazy to most of us. Refusing treatment that could save your baby's life is not the behaviour of a normal mother. But this evidence is not damning enough to section a pregnant woman under the Mental Health Act. And it certainly means every care should be taken to make sure the woman gets proper legal representation, and the chance to put her side of the story if sectioning becomes a possibility.

Who knows yet whether S was mentally ill? The trouble is that, given the record of British doctors and our state representatives in pronouncing on the health of unconventional pregnant women in the past, we cannot help but be suspicious today. This century, unmarried mothers were locked up, sometimes for decades, and so displaying deeply abnormal behaviour for the society at the time. Yes, women sometimes behave strangely in preg-

nancy. But the fact that we are all still so inclined to treat pregnant women so differently from other patients should make us extremely cautious in judging the case of S.

Smarten up? You must be joking

Most of the teacher training package unveiled yesterday was eminently sensible – which the Labour Party's ready assent showed. Strip away the party political posturing, and here is the basis for a much needed re-professionalisation of teaching. But Gillian Shephard could not resist over-egging the pudding.

How teachers teach, their impact in the classroom, their capacity to inspire and stimulate their charges – these have got nothing to do with how they are dressed.

The Secretary of State's cult of "smartness" is not just irrelevant, it is hypocritical. The day she and her Cabinet colleagues can be held up as model dressers, sartorial superheroes – that will be the day teachers and anyone else may begin to take seriously the idea that we should look to our leaders for words of wisdom about dress.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What Russia demands from Nato

Sir: As the Czech-born US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, arrives in London, your leading article "Expand Nato and pull Russia in from the cold" (17 February) is right to remind us of the diplomatic delicacy required in discussing the issue of Nato expansion.

It is clear to the whole spectrum of Russian political leaders that Moscow cannot veto the admission of any country to the bloc, but Russia does very much have a right to care for its own security. And here Ms Albright must be careful not to take the embers of Cold War thinking.

Russia does perceive Nato expansion as a threat, and is calling for concrete, legally verifiable accords to calm tensions should any expansion eastwards occur. Russia cannot rely on verbal declarations – the post-German unification process has shown that NATO reneged on its pledge not to expand eastward after the Warsaw Pact dissolution. Why should we believe Nato this time?

Are the likes of Boris Yeltsin and Viktor Chernenyrdin – on the one hand feted at Western top tables as leaders of the Russian march to free market economics and democracy – really seen in Washington as revanchists just waiting to snuff out the smaller fledgling democracies of Eastern Europe at a moment's notice?

Nato expansion could lead to alarming developments: resurgent anti-Nato nationalism; cancellation of the Start-II Treaty commitments; abandonment of the "No first-strike" nuclear policy and a new re-armament campaign.

It was the polarised politics of first the Nazis and then Stalinism that drove Ms Albright – nee Korbel – and many others from her homeland. She must now beware playing into the hands of today's nationalists and hardline Communists and realise her historic responsibility when mapping out a new course for Nato.

ANBREI OLEININ
Burau Chief, RIA-Novosti
London SW7

Women to decide on gay abortion

Sir: You report that James Watson might sue a newspaper for claiming that he advocated the abortion of foetuses carrying a "gay" gene ("Nobel winner backs abortion for any reason", 17 February). You go on: "But in the same breath" he said that women should have the right to abort for any reason, including a genetic lack of musical or sporting ability. Why "But"? The word you seek is "And".

It is perfectly obvious from your report that Dr Watson, like many people, is simply an advocate of women having the choice. The point of his "gay" gene example was that if you are really committed to giving each woman the choice, you cannot dictate how she will exercise it.

Dr Watson names abilities in music and basketball, not because he advocates selective abortion in their favour, but precisely to emphasise the irrelevance of what he, or anybody else except the woman concerned, thinks, given a pro-choice stance.

A woman might passionately desire a homosexual child and elect



to abort a foetus with heterosexual genes. Indeed, I have not the slightest doubt that Dr Watson would be happy to add heterosexuality to his list of hypothetical reasons for aborting.

It is entirely consistent that the anti-abortion lobby has attacked him. It would be logical for a father's lobby (and might join them) to protest that Dr Watson gives too much prominence to the mother's wishes alone. But it is totally illogical for the gay lobby to attack him as, according to your report, they have.

RICHARD DAWKINS
New College, Oxford

Swampy vs democracy

Sir: There is a difference between the idealism of youth, which prompts so many young people into taking up some form of voluntary activity, and the political minority rule advocated by the anti-roads protester Swampy ("The Gospel according to Swampy", 17 February).

He appears to believe that we should substitute the tyranny of single-issue politics with, in many cases, its anarchy, for democratic procedures where a majority view is taken. If he believes that single-issue politics will not experience corruption, he is more naive than appears.

What is necessary in a democracy, apart from a fair voting system, is strong institutions which thwart corruption. Unfortunately, many of these have been found wanting, but that does not mean that we give up and abandon the role of institutional control.

Someone who takes the financial benefits of a structured society and thwarts the majority will of the providers needs to look at his own moral base before lecturing others.

NORMAN WEBB
Halifax, West Yorkshire

Future bleak for private trains

Sir: With the chaos at South West Trains, one of the first private rail companies, we are seeing just what a failure rail privatisation is for the travelling public ("Minister labels rail company inept over cuts", 18 February).

Thousands of commuters are being left waiting on station platforms because the company chose to let train drivers go before the alternative arrangements for keeping the trains running were in place.

And all this just weeks before the general election, at a time when Transport ministers are desperately trying to talk up rail privatisation. It makes you fear for the future of the railways if the Tories win again.

This Government destroyed the coal industry just months after the last election.

How long would it take another Tory government and the new private rail companies to decide that the sums don't add up after all – and do the same to Britain's railways?

Ms BRENDA BENSON
Feltham, Middlesex

Winter blues at Elsinore

Sir: Christopher Sladen's textual interpretation of Hamlet really won't do (letter, 18 February).

When the prince soliloquises about his mother's frailty in marrying her brother-in-law within "a little month" of her husband's death, he clearly means "a mere month". He is not thinking on the lines of "thirty days bath September... and February twenty-eight", so signalling February as the month of his father's death.

But if Christopher Sladen wants to back up the mid-winter theory he only has to look at Hamlet's arrival on the battlefields – "The air bites shrewdly, it is very cold" – which would seem to justify Kenneth Branagh's snow.

IAN FLINTOFF
London SW6

Act now to curb latest CJD risk

Sir: Yes, too little action was taken on BSE and too late; and indeed the Government was told at the time what to do by scientists who were ignored (Who deserves censure for BSE?, 14 February; letters 17 February).

But always the problem with a long-incubation-period epidemic is that you have to take action before proof of danger is available, and the Government decided to wait for the proof. Labour may arrive in

power with the same problem for the new variant of CJD. We cannot know the number of people that will die of the disease, but these are the people donating blood at the moment and a recent article in *Nature* would indicate that one in 200-300 blood donations may be from an infected person to an uninfected one.

Labour may not realise it, but no research funding has been put into looking for methods of treatment under the current government and such a complex development may take 10 years.

Again action has to be taken before certainty is available... or again it will be too late.

Dr STEPHEN DEALLER
Consultant Medical Microbiologist
Burnley, Lancashire

'Crimewatch' and copycats

Sir: With reference to Jonathan Foster's report on the murder of Eve Howells, ("The family who killed their mother", 12 February), I am deeply concerned that a statement made by a 15-year-old murder defendant has been accepted by your newspaper as fact without any attempt at verification.

I refer to the claim made that: "Glenn was inspired by the *Crimewatch* programme to take a hammer to his mother."

As an appeals programme committed to helping solve serious crimes, *Crimewatch* UK operates under strict internal guidelines

which are rigidly adhered to at all times. One of these is never to reveal details which might encourage or assist copycat crimes. In all the reporting about Glenn Howells's testimony, no reference is made to a specific case featured on the programme.

SEETHA KUMAR
Series Producer, *Crimewatch* UK
BBC
London W12

Gun move illegal

Sir: I am very concerned that a great injustice is about to be enacted by Parliament regarding the Firearms Amendment Bill ("Lords inflict triple defeat on Tories over guns ban", 5 February).

I must question Parliament's right to confiscate legally held property (full bore pistols) from a British subject.

Article 12 of the Bill of Rights 1689 clearly states that a person's property cannot be confiscated unless they have been convicted of a crime.

IAN SUMMERELL
Tickenham, North Somerset

A rabbi for all

Sir: The late Rabbi Hugo Gryn ("In life this man was the best-loved rabbi in Britain; his death is tearing the Jewish community apart", 17 February) never claimed to represent Jewry as a whole.

However, he personified all that is best in Judaism and humanity, and it would surely become Jews of every ilk to emulate and celebrate his life in a spirit of unity.

LINDA RENE-MARTIN
London NW8

Pride in our maritime past

Sir: Three cheers for the sentiments expressed by Professor Kennedy in his lecture at Churchill College, hailed by Andreas Whittam Smith (article, 10 February).

How many of the people involved in the plans for the millennium centred on Greenwich or the Masterplan for improving the Thames are even aware of the great maritime heritage of the area?

Hidden along the banks of the Thames between Southwark and Blackwall are the remains of Britain's greatest maritime achievement in the age of sail. About 1400 East Indiamen from 300 to 1400 tons – in an age when most maritime trade, coastal and oceanic, was carried on in boats of 100 tons or less – were built in the merchant yards between 1600 and 1830.

The Indiamen succeeded the Portuguese in discovering and exploiting the traditional trade routes of the eastern seas, skilfully and meticulously charting them and helping the Navy to defend them successfully against their European rivals. Together they created the foundations for British maritime supremacy in the 19th century.

If the Thames were the Seine, the Masterplan for improving it would bring this great heritage to the public's notice. The far less significant and much shorter-lived French *Compagnie des Indes* has been officially promoted for years with a lavish extravagance quite alien to our narrow vision.

JEAN SUTTON
Bournemouth, Dorset

Sir: To the dismay of Richard Tilt, Director General of the Prison Service, Weymouth and Portland councilors are blocking plans to moor in Portland Harbour, Dorset, the prison ship *Resolution*, which is being brought from New York next month to inaugurate a return to the hulk system of imprisonment (report, 11 February).

Should we not go back a little further in history – to the age of transportation – and ask the Australians if they could help us out once again?

PEGGIE HUNTER
Honorary Secretary
The Howard League, Scotland
Edinburgh

Monied classes

Sir: Amidst the current frenzied efforts to produce ideas which will improve the English educational system (leading article, 12 February), one fact is being ignored: the 7 per cent of the population who do not send their children to state schools happen to be the nation's rich and powerful.

Until they have a personal and direct interest in the quality of state schools, is it reasonable to expect much improvement? The point here is not to pursue the vindictive and self-defeating goal of "abolition" of private schools, but to harness the best of them to the state sector.

PETER RAINEY
Malden, Kent

Wartime weather

Sir: How weary I am of hearing the weather presenters forecast on weather on television. They make it sound like the threat of a bombing air-raid. Why can't they just tell us calmly what we're going to get?

JANET S HIND DUFF
Wallasey, Merseyside

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number.

Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk.

E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

هكذا من الأصل

portrait

The title has had many worthy owners over recent years: Madame Mao, Indira Gandhi, Margaret Thatcher, even – during her brief moment of public favour – Hillary Rodham Clinton. But over the present holder there can be no argument. The label of Most Powerful Woman in the World is now affixed to Madeleine Korbelt Albright, who today arrives in London.

Hers is a remarkable personal story, the "American Dream" made flesh anew, this time in the person of a Czech girl who fled totalitarianism for the Land of the Free, where she rises to become the first female Secretary of State, the highest office ever held by a woman. But for the disqualification of her foreign birth, she would be fourth in line for the presidency. The ascent has followed a classic American pattern, a mixture of hard work and individual ability, and skill at making contacts which matter.

In Ms Albright's case, the blend propelled her to key Democratic backroom foreign policy jobs at the White House and on Capitol Hill, then to Georgetown University and the ambassadorship at the United Nations, before Bill Clinton chose her last November for the most senior job in his second-term Cabinet.

The disclosures about her Jewish ancestry, which she handled with grace and composure, generated only passing turbulence. Most extraordinary of all, nobody whispered that this most "diversity-conscious" of presidents had picked her because of her sex, to reward the women's vote which re-elected him.

Madeleine Albright got the job, it was universally agreed, because she was the best candidate. And it might be added, the most media-genic.

Where her predecessor Warren Christopher was cautious and shy, holding a TV camera in about the same affection as the reared head of a cobra, she is assertive, outspoken and adores the spotlight.

The arid legal style of Mr Christopher was hard enough to understand in English. Not only does Ms Albright dispense soundbites; she can do so in her native Czech, in passable Russian, and as an ever prickly Paris discovered to its pleasure this week, in decent French as well. There are a dozen press seats on the Secretary's Boeing jet. Unsurprisingly, this debut round-the-



'We do not run a cookie-cutter foreign policy.' Albright is likely to be more interventionist but astute in her choice of enemies

Photograph: Reuters

Meet the most powerful woman in the world

Self-doubt is not one of her problems. She is hawkish. She shoots from the lip. Madeleine Albright was not an equal opportunities choice for United States Secretary of State, says Rupert Cornwell

world trip was four times over-subscribed. In the days of Warren Christopher, the press section was not infrequently half-empty.

This shoot-from-the-lip style is both a blessing and a curse. "My mindset is Munich, not Vietnam," she loves to tell questioners: and indeed self-doubt is not one of her most visible qualities. "Please look elsewhere" will be the sign posted on the State Department door for menacing dictators demanding appeasement, at least while Ms Albright is around.

Unfortunately, Vietnam remains a more likely paradigm

for a "hot" foreign policy crisis affecting America in the post-Cold War era. Dictators are an eternal breed, but these days they are mostly of the tinpot variety. Saddam Hussein is under siege from within, North Korea is a threat because of its weakness, not its strength. The rest of the field, starting with Fidel Castro, scarcely counts.

Rather, today's post-Soviet

world, with its more complex fault-lines, offers more subtle dangers, whereby America might find itself sucked into a treacherous military involvement overseas to protect perceived national interests.

The Bosnian rapids have thus far been successfully navigated. But a major crisis in the Korean peninsula or the Gulf (an Islamic fundamentalist uprising in Saudi Arabia is the ultimate nightmare) would be infinitely trickier for the US. To intervene or not to intervene? When, and in what quantity, are American casualties justified? Ms Albright is on the "hawkish" end of almost any foreign policy spectrum, less squeamish about the use of American force abroad than most of her colleagues. But by her own admission, she is no Metternich or Kissinger, and no "Albright Doctrine" exists. And in an interlocking yet fragmented international landscape, that is perhaps as well.

In this age, an imaginative

US foreign policy would seek not so much grand designs, but accommodations and new channels of communications with old foes – and in the case of Havana at least, some such may already be happening. A year ago, Castro's shooting down of two small unarmed civilian aircraft piloted by Cuban exiles from Miami prompted the most celebrated Albright soundbite, that the deed was "not *cognitive* (testicles), but cowardice". And in the uproar provoked in the US by the incident, President Clinton signed the infamous Helms-Burton Act, placing sanctions on foreign companies which do business in Cuba.

Helms-Burton of course still drives the Europeans to distraction, but the incident, President Clinton signed the infamous Helms-Burton Act, placing sanctions on foreign companies which do business in Cuba.

is another matter – but the shouting match of the deaf may be drawing to a close.

Bolder still would be a similar opening towards Iran. This month, the US is sending its first ambassador to Hanoi, normalising relations with a country that inflicted humiliation upon America even greater than Tehran when it turned US embassy personnel into hostages 17 years ago. But all the US has for Iran is abuse, even though the absence of ties with the most powerful state in the region weakens its hand in understanding, and dealing with, the overlapping crises of the Gulf and the Middle East. Could it be Madeleine Albright who corrects this lacuna? Perhaps, though there is nothing in her record to suggest so.

On most issues, however, the sharper Albright rhetoric will herald little change in substance. Nato expansion, to which Mr Clinton committed himself irrevocably last Octo-

ber, was as likely to go ahead under Mr Christopher as Ms Albright. Her task this week in Moscow will not be to sell the Russians on a scheme they detest but know they cannot halt – but to avoid giving extra gratuitous offence to hardliners and further weakening the sickly Boris Yeltsin.

On China too, she must obey geopolitical reality. Why, she was once asked, did Washington not treat Peking as harshly as Cuba, although its abuse of democracy and human rights was at least as egregious? For once a soundbite reply was honest, "We do not run a cookie-cutter foreign policy." Which, translated, means, China is simply too big and powerful to be brushed aside. After Moscow she travels to Peking, where Ms Albright will warn her hosts of the perils of clamping down too harshly in Hong Kong after July 1. She will speak forthrightly too about human rights, trade violations and arms proliferation – but all in private.

Her foreign policy team too reflects deliberate and reassuring continuity. Strobe Talbott, Mr Clinton's close friend from their Rhodes Scholar days at Oxford, is staying on as Deputy Secretary of State, while the

third ranking official will be the former ambassador to the Soviet Union, Thomas Pickering, widely seen as the ablest US career diplomat of his generation. Dennis Ross, the tenacious negotiator who served under both Presidents Bush and Clinton, will remain as troubleshooter for the Middle East, an area with which Ms Albright has had little direct dealing. The revelations over her background (of which the Israeli Government is said to have been aware since 1994) are unlikely to have much impact on views of her in a region which has already survived the close attentions of one enemy, Jewish-born, Secretary of State, in Henry Kissinger.

However, on the problem closer even to British hearts than Hong Kong, a subtle change of policy may be in the making. Washington still wants to promote a peace in Northern Ireland, but the naive enthusiasm of three years ago has been tempered by the realities of the last 12 months. The bureaucratic cards have also been shuffled, with the departure of Tony Lake and Nancy Soderberg, the White House officials who argued most powerfully for the Gerry Adams visa in 1994. Ulster policy-making may therefore slip back into the orbit of the State Department, where Ms Albright, who has little "form" on the Irish problem, may be more content to follow the lead of London and Dublin. All this adds up to less sympathy for the nationalists. But in truth, so much has been evident here ever since the bomb a Canary Wharf, Sinn Féin fundraising in the US is said to have dropped off sharply.

But the title of World's Most Powerful Woman is not decided merely by the nuclear throw-weight at her disposal. At least in this her honeymoon phase, Madeleine Albright also packs a political punch matched among recent Secretaries of State only by James Baker and Dr Kissinger himself. Hillary Clinton is among her nearest friends, while Mr Talbott is another line to the Oval Office, should it be required.

She is adored by feminists, yet at her Senate confirmation hearings that conservative scourge of the State Department and all things foreign, the Foreign Relations Committee chairman Jesse Helms was eating from her hand. Once confirmed, her first foray from Washington was not abroad, but to Houston, to seek counsel from a former Republican president, George Bush, and Mr Baker. Next month moreover, she will go to Mr Helms's home state of North Carolina to deliver a major policy address. Such is the art of successful foreign policy building. Success begins at home – and without it, Ms Albright will not achieve her crucial goals of more funding for the State Department, and repayment of America's \$1bn UN arrears.

Even with Mr Helms on her side, she may yet fail. But scarcely has a Secretary of State's first month been as auspicious.

Did you know the government allows you to save from £10 to £25 a month with a friendly society completely free of tax? And while your savings are growing tax free, you can look forward to a final lump sum, also entirely free of tax.

Scottish Friendly has an excellent with profits track record and our ten year plan offers you:

- A guaranteed minimum return
- The prospect of tax free annual bonuses
- A lump sum final payment entirely free of tax
- The choice of paying monthly, annually or in a lump sum

Every member of your family can save tax free, so don't miss out. For more information, return the coupon to the address below or call us free today.

Scottish Friendly Assurance, FREEPOST, Ashford 523, Glasgow G2 1ST.

CALL FREE QUOTING IN 090297

0800 585 625

Please send no more information on this free coupon to:

Title _____

First name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

Full performance is not guaranteed. A small illustration is shown.

© 1996 Scottish Friendly Assurance. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without written permission.

DON'T MISS OUT ON YOUR CHANCE TO SAVE AX FREE

Reply today and get a FREE GORKSCREW and details of further free gifts with your policy

Date of birth _____

No. of people in household: _____

Adults _____ Children _____

From time to time, we may send you details of other Scottish Friendly products and services which we think may be of interest to you. If you do not wish to receive this information tick this box.

☐ Scottish Friendly

A fairer society

Member of the Scottish Friendly Group. The information is published in the Scottish Friendly Group's annual report.

Seen the film? Now buy the Taoiseach

If you believe what you read in the papers, the three biggest problems of modern life are – which way the Ulster Unionists are going to vote in the Commons, whether the Daily Mail would be a lot better at running the justice system than Michael Howard, and if John Cleese's new film is any good or not.

May I suggest that none of these problems is worth the paper they are printed on, or at least that neither you nor I spend much time discussing them? Because we sense that they are not *real* problems.

Today's *real* problems are elsewhere. We in this modern age have built up a whole new selection of problems which have never existed before, many of which we face every day, and none of which ever hits the headlines.

Indeed, hardly any of them has ever been mentioned in a national newspaper before.

So today I am bringing you a selection of these problems peculiar to our age.

How to pronounce Irish names.

Once upon a time, we English felt that we could

pronounce Irish names because the only Irish names that ever came our way were easy ones like Oscar, and Eamonn, and WB, and Seumas, and we thought there was nothing more to it. We were wrong. In the last 10 years, the stakes have been upped, starting with the necessity to say "Taoiseach" out loud, pronounced something like "T-shit", and going on without a let-up to Sinead, Siobhán, Máire, Sián, and Daire Brehán, all of which we are now expected to get right without raising our eyebrows. In fact, one or two in that list are almost certainly not Irish but Welsh or Scottish, which brings us on to another problem: that of distinguishing one kind of Celt from another yet. Send for our little free booklet, "If Sean Connery is Scottish, why in the name of the pibroch has he got an Irish name?"

How to avoid other people's umbrellas.

An umbrella is a handy thing for keeping the rain off, but it is also a handy thing for getting entangled in, and until someone invents a flat-sided or bouncy



Miles Kingston

umbrella, we will go on down the high street crashing into other brooms. We are beginning to evolve some kind of rudimentary instinct to deal with this (tall person lift his broom, short person go under tall person's, etc), but it is not as sure-footed as our tackling of the next problem, which is...

How to manoeuvre a supermarket trolley without hitting the opposition.

Over the past hundred or more years, we have learnt how to walk along crowded pavements without colliding

very often into people coming the other way. Nobody knows how, but we have. And now we have started to evolve the same sort of instinct in Sainsbury's and Waitrose and Tesco. Nobody tells us to keep to the left or right, but by some sort of instinct, we tend to know which way the other person is heading and go the other way. Very often, it is the same person we avoided in the previous aisle and the one before that. Actually, that's another problem – whether or not to smile at someone you have never met before, except just now in fresh veg, and again in toiletries and again in sauces and again, fleetingly, in the aisle containing those big party packs of ice-cream that nobody ever seems to buy.

How to fill in time at the check-out.

Modern living is full of enforced waiting. We are told that it is non-stop action, but this is not so. A lot of modern life is spent in immobility and inactivity – while we wait at a service station with petrol nozzle in hand for the car to fill up, or stand in a bank queue, or

wait for red lights to change, or wait for our number to be called, or wait for the railway guard to say "We are sorry for this delay" – but the worst of all is waiting in a queue at a supermarket when you have chosen the slowest queue, and the people in front of you take so long to pack their purchases, and then can't find their cheque book, or the price label has come off the piece of fresh ginger, and the cashier has rung in the supervisor to come and help, but the supervisor has just gone off for her tea break or secret swing of sherry.

Personally, I always take a book to read in the queue. Unfortunately, many cashier suspect that you must have bought the book in the shop, so it pays to take a large, second-hand out-of-print hardback.

More modern problems next time, including security-camera cracked neck, inability to remember which way clockwise is, irrational conviction that the Oscars are important, post-bicycle clip trouser stress, etc etc.

150 من الجاهل

The voices that may dash all hopes of reform

How dare he? For pure political advantage, John Major has decided, entirely cynically, to go to the country on a platform of electoral gerrymandering. His plans, among the most dangerous ever put before the electorate, threaten the future of the centuries-old United Kingdom. He is imposing an undemocratic fix on the British people.

Having sold out Parliament's ancient powers to Brussels, he is now intent on forcing a choice on the Scots which he suspects and hopes will lead to the disintegration of the British Union. And in England, he is bitterly opposed to a fairer voting system for one reason, and one only - that it undermines his own party's grip on power and patronage.

He even wants to retain hereditary peers in order to enjoy for himself and his friends the comforts of office. Consistency and logic are cast aside. Has there ever been a more shameful, cynical prospectus put before the voters than this?

Readers may detect an unusually strident tone here, even a note of ranting hysteria. Well, you are right if you have. As it happens, I think Mr Major's hostility to Scottish and Welsh devolution, his support for hereditary peers and even his opposition to electoral reform are positions he holds honestly and independently of party advantage; that he has thought them through and that he is making a case which, though I disagree with it, is respectable.

The ranting tone, however, was merely the effect of applying Mr Major's own recent rhetoric to opposition policies. His hyperbole about the end of a thousand years of history has been ridiculed sufficiently already. But by accusing his opponents of lacking any motives beyond shallow party self-interest, the Prime Minister is using cheap shots.

With an important Commons debate on the constitution scheduled for tomorrow, Tory strategists ought to ask themselves whether they really want an election campaign so degraded and hysteria-tinged. And Mr Major personally might reflect that he is using a style of populist ranting which he loathes and resents when it is practised against him by the headline anti-Europeans of the right.

So what is he on about? And, while we're at it, why do we hear so little self-confident argument about the case for electoral and political reform from Labour? The answer in both cases is about the same: pressophobia.

The Prime Minister and Mr Blair share the characteristic of being obsessed by the threats and opportunities offered by the press. Mr Major has always been much too interested in courting journalists and proprietors, and reads - though this may have changed recently - far too much about himself. Mr Blair is fascinated by the danger posed by *The Sun* and the *Daily Mail*, and by the idea of neutralising them or winning them over. If the circumstances were different, what a conversation the two men could enjoy on the subject!

At one level, of course, they are right: newspapers can have a great effect, particularly when they hunt in packs. They are as much part of the electoral process as booths and pencils. It would be foolish for any Tory leader to let the *Telegraph's* friendship slip through his fingers, or for any Labour one carelessly to anger those sharp little men at *The Sun*.

In the present case this means, for Mr



Andrew Marr

Mr Major is bellowing about the constitution to shore up his support. Mr Blair is talking too quietly for exactly the same reason

Major, the need to blur the great issue where he differs from the Tory papers - European Union - with the maximum amount of flashy, posturing, British Lion-bothering, false-Churchillian pomp-patriotism. His speech in Wales gave the impression that it was our last stand against the Nazi menace. If he goes on about the destruction of a thousand years of happy British history at the hands of wild-eyed Edinburgh legislators, perhaps his nationalist critics might belt up about Maastricht.

For Mr Blair, the calculations are different. His camp thinks the right-wing papers will be unimpressed by the bursts of patriotic music from No 10. Conrad Black, Verso Rothermere and Rupert Murdoch, and their editors and commentators, will keep their eyes on the bigger picture. They will tolerate, and even privately welcome, a modest period of New Labour government, while the Tory party sorts itself out before returning as a fully armed and vigorous opponent of European federalism - the real enemy.

It follows that there could be nothing more damaging to Labour's relations with the press than the admission that Mr Blair is thinking of electoral reform. Why? Because that would threaten the Tory right's chances of taking power again in the early 2000s - and perhaps even. For the rightist press, four years of Mr Blair might be tolerable; but a radical realignment of politics in favour of the centre-left certainly would not be.

This analysis creates particular difficulties for New Labour: they want to stay close to the Liberal Democrats, who might prove important after the election, and with whom Mr Blair has been engaged in a long, private bout of deal-making about the constitution. The Lib-Dems want electoral reform above all other earthly goods. Yet it is electoral reform and the reshaping of the constitution that Mr Blair wishes not to discuss, partly in order to avoid jeopardising his better relations with right-wing papers. The Lib-Dems need him to sound radical and challenging; but if that is how he yet turns against him and help put Mr Major back.

This housewife thinking, these muttered calculations in the mental corridor that connects newspaper offices and Westminster, explain why this argument about the future of Britain echoes so oddly in the clearer, brighter air outside. Mr Major is bellowing about the constitution in danger, in order to shore up his press support; Mr Blair is talking too quietly about reform, for exactly the same reason. Tactically, both men seem to be behaving shrewdly. But are they? Knowing a fair number of rightist commentators and editors, it seems to me that they understand the games being played perfectly well: when the time comes, they will play their game, and no one else's. It does not include reforming this nation. As an unabashed enthusiast for political reform, I am worried that the combination of flag-waving hyperbole from Mr Major - however silly - and nervous throat-clearing from the other side - however sensible - may fatally damage the cause. That would be a great triumph for the Prime Minister - and he is a formidable, if ranting, campaigner still.

The Opposition has learned quite a lot from him in the past few years. Perhaps, as they prepare for today's Commons debate on the constitution they need to learn one lesson more: you cannot crusade in a whisper.

The peace brought by the Taliban

by James Fergusson

Foreign aid workers were not surprised when the Taliban opened a new political office in Peshawar, just over Afghanistan's eastern border with Pakistan. But they were surprised at its location, right in the middle of University Town, the city suburb so crowded with the offices of aid organisations that it is known by some as NGOland.

You can't miss their office: it is the one with the fantastically turbaned and bearded men loitering in silence outside. You can feel their stares as you pass down Old Bara Road. One of them recently squared up to a woman aid worker from Australia as she emerged from the bakery opposite, blocking her exit. He offered no violence - he didn't even speak - but the implication was clear enough: there were to be no unveiled women in their street.

The West, of course, has come to expect nothing less from the Taliban. From the moment they took Kabul last autumn, reports of the unprecedented severity of their version of Islam streamed from the Afghan capital. We have read about hangings for murder and amputations for theft. Music, we are told, is banned, as is the flying of kites. Most infamous of all, of course, is the oppression of women. They have been denied the right to work and be educated, and have been beaten for showing their faces on the streets, and in Kandahar, the Taliban capital, stoned to death for adultery.

"The most fundamentalist nation in the world," said John Simpson as he bravely filmed a totem pole festooned with disembowelled television sets - and the West nodded in horrified agreement.

Many Afghans, though, do not see it that way. Nor, even, do a growing number of Peshawar's aid workers, despite the bakery incident. For a start, the Taliban are nothing like as dogmatic as they have been portrayed. "There's a big difference between what the Taliban say and what they actually do," says Stuart Worsley, deputy director of Care International in Peshawar. "Some of the edicts that come out of the madrasas [religious schools] are pure *Monty Python*, and very often the guys on the ground choose not to enforce them."

Women, in other words, are not automatically beaten for showing their faces; no one is made to pray five times a day; and the education of girls is not universally forbidden. The Taliban is governed by consensus, not by imposition (a tactic which has never worked in Afghanistan, as the Russians found to their cost). Worsley cites the example of Ghazni, where the Taliban proposed converting the local school into a madrasa: when the public complained, the Taliban immediately backed down. "The enforcement of rules usually depends on local tradition," says Worsley.



Under cover: women are not always forbidden to show their faces, and girls' education is on the agenda

The Islamist militia reviled by the West are increasingly popular in Afghanistan

But even the official line on girls' education is changing: from March 6, the start of the new school term, the Taliban have agreed to reopen girls' schools in the all-important Kabul area. This concession was the fruit of a UN-brokered meeting in Harat at the end of last month - the first of its kind between the Taliban and a Western organisation.

It is only a small step towards resuming human rights, but its significance is clear. "The Taliban always said they would do three things once they were recognised as legitimate," says Worsley. "They promised to stop exporting terrorism, stop exporting drugs, and bring back the girls' schools. The fact they have given a date for the schools shows that they're feeling more secure."

The Taliban have good reason to feel secure. Although the military advance northward has been checked at the Salang tunnel, no one believes they will ever have to take that obstruction by force, least of all the Taliban themselves. The defence alliance north of the tunnel has been quietly imploding all winter. Inflation among the currencies used by General Abdul Rashid Dostam is

reported to have reached 100 per cent per week. In time, the Taliban are convinced, the hard-pressed people of the northern areas will come over to their side.

The men inside the Peshawar political office sit cross-legged and in silence on a carpet. They have the intense light of religious conviction in their eyes; a gun cupboard in the corner is kept discreetly locked. "Our success is due only to the fact that the people want us to succeed," says their spokesman, Amriddin. "We have imposed nothing but peace."

It sounds unlikely, but the Taliban have indeed brought peace. Those parts of Afghanistan that they control - 65 per cent of the population, and a much greater percentage geographically - are now safer than at any period in the last 17 years. The road blocks manned by rapacious or even psychopathic militiamen are a thing of the past. The rural population, no longer in need of guns for self-protection, has been disarmed. Farmers have begun to replant their crops, safe in the knowledge that they will be able to take them to market. Banditry has been eradicated. "It is possible to sleep at night now," says Mahmud Amin, who used to be a driver for Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, ex-prime minister and leader of the

Hezb-i-Islami party, but is now pro-Taliban. "All Afghans are pro-Taliban," he adds, "except for some educated Kabulites who still think like the Communists."

Amin lives at Nasir Bagh, the largest of the Afghan refugee camps that surround Peshawar. He says he intends to return to his country the moment the Taliban have unequivocally won - an outcome of which he, like everyone else at Nasir Bagh, has little doubt.

The Taliban may represent Afghanistan's best chance for stability, but there is more to Amin's optimism than that. It is hard for the West to accept, but the Taliban are, in fact, a popular movement.

"They were quite right to ban music," says Amin. "People had learnt some very bad habits." He goes on to define two kinds of music: the kind where men play the instruments and women dance, which is "disgraceful", and the kind where

men play and young boys dance: "That's perfectly OK."

The creed expanded by the Taliban has less to do with Koranic fundamentalism than with Pashtunwali, the tribal code of the Pashtuns, who straddle the Afghan-Pakistani border and account for about half of Afghanistan's population. The basic tenets of Pashtunwali are honour, revenge and respect for private property; its currency is women, land and money.

What has been portrayed in the West as the excess of new Islamic zeal is in fact part and parcel of a far older tradition. That is why the unworried Taliban were genuinely astonished when they were criticised for confining Kabul women to their homes - a move intended, they said, for their own protection.

Of course, not all Afghans are happy with the Taliban. And there is a long way to go before their treatment of women can be considered acceptable. Nevertheless, they have brought peace and security to a region ravaged by war; and if they can maintain it, they may be the best thing to have happened to Afghanistan for many years.

Tune in to the last of the dinosaurs

Channel Five has come too late for the revolution in our TV viewing, writes Hamish McRae

OK, so if we are going to watch the new Channel Five schedules released yesterday, what will we not watch instead?

The point is simple enough. There is a finite amount of time that people are prepared to allocate to watching a screen. That amount of time may be far higher than anyone could have envisaged a generation ago, but it is no longer rising. So the people who are lured by Channel Five will be lured away from everything else.

But, of course, Channel Five is the last of a breed: a new channel designed to win mass audiences. We are on the brink of the digital revolution, the technology which, with satellite and cable, will make not five, not 50, but thousands of channels available. Indeed the whole idea of a channel may disappear, if we move to a world in which people watch what they want, when they want, rather than having to watch something chosen by someone else, at the particular time it happens to be broadcast.

To this cornucopia of television is added the mass of audio-visual material coming on to computer screens through the Internet. Expect the quality and availability of that to be transformed over the next five years, as the technical modern speeds rise, the technical capability of the system improves, and the volume of information and entertainment soars.

Time spent at a computer screen is obviously time spent not watching

television. A couple of recent studies have looked at the viewing habits of people connected to the Internet.

Unsurprisingly, Internet homes watch less television; and not just adults. Internet children also spend less time watching it. So conventional television channels face a double squeeze: there will be much more material and rather less time to watch it. Something has to give.

What will that be?

There are two analogies that help us glimpse the future of television. One is cinema; the other is magazines. Anyone who can think back to the Thirties, Forties or even early Fifties will recall the dominance of cinema. Many of the palaces of the movie industry, built mostly in the Thirties, still remain in our high streets, but are either converted to bingo halls or are multiplexed. Between 1950 and the early Eighties there was a steady, inexorable decline in cinema attendance. True, there has now been a recovery; and true, the total revenue from films, including video releases, television sales, receipts from merchandise and so on has buttressed the fall in income from cinema seats. But from the perspective of 1950 there has been a generation of decline.



The value will be in the programme, not the channel

Alongside that decline has been a shift in power, away from the studios and towards the stars: they have become brands in themselves, and extract a higher proportion of the reward. Apply these factors to the television industry and you can argue that it is facing a similar future: a long, inexorable squeeze on its revenues.

Already advertisers are aware that it is virtually impossible to use television to reach busy people, the very people who tend to be high earners and so particularly attractive to advertisers. The pressures on time to watch any particular programme are likely to grow, so advertisement revenue will tend to be squeezed still further. And not just squeezed; it will also be spread more thinly, as programmes proliferate, and revenues tend to

come from subscriptions. Meanwhile more and more value will be extracted by the stars.

The stars in television may be a cup final, a "must see", time-critical event, rather than individuals. But the point is the same: the value will be in the programme, not in the channel. We don't care whether *Blind Date* is distributed by the Beeb or ITV. And when there are a thousand channels, we will care even less.

Now look at the magazine model. Go into a newsagent's and look at the immense degree of specialisation in the magazine area: you want to know about the best dives in the Maldives, so you find several mags on scuba diving; or you want to buy a second-hand Bristol, so you fish out the ones on classic cars. Now and again, the magazine publishers spot a new market: the "new bloke" world of *FHM* and *Loaded* is the great fashionable discovery of the last couple of years.

The infinite variety comes not just from the fact that the mags are intensely specialised; they also come from all over the world. That is coming in television. I was told yesterday that we are five years away from being able to get a high quality television signal over a wireless phone

link. So in theory you could go into a hotel in Chicago, plug your mobile phone into the side of the set and watch any programme from anywhere in the world. You could watch the US scuba-diving channel back in the UK, just as you can pick up a US-based magazine on the subject.

Sure, we still buy a national newspaper, just as we will still watch mass-market television. Sure, many of these magazine titles are owned by a handful of giant publishing empires. But entry to magazine publishing is much less closed than television is. As the latter opens up, the variety of the magazine rack will hit the screen.

There is a further change coming. With that variety and, maybe a little later, the ability to time-shift (ie to watch a programme at the time of our choice, without a video-recorder), we will become our own programmers. Just as we allocate our own reading time, we can allocate our own viewing time. We will fast-forward the boring bits, dump the studio discussions, flip over the irritating adverts. Think of the shift of power from programmer to viewer that would result.

So we welcome Channel Five let's remember that it is a dinosaur. It will be the last example of a mass-market channel to be started in the UK; the last new channel where the content is decided by a handful of highly paid people sitting in a plush office; the last which we will watch simply because it is there.

Chronometer, Watch and Nautical Instrument maker to The Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

Sewills
Maker to the Admiralty
— Est'd 1800ad —

APPLY TODAY for your FREE copy of the Sewills colour brochure containing over 150 timepieces and weather instruments. Prices from £20 to £3,000. Plus details of FREE Sewills gifts.

Phone: **0151 708 0099** quote ref: **IN50**
Or fax us on: 0151 708 6777.

Sewills, Cornhill House, 24 Cornhill, Liverpool L1 8DZ

Simply complete the coupon below and post it to: Sewills, Cornhill House, 24 Cornhill, Liverpool L1 8DZ

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms.) _____ quote ref: _____
Address: _____ IN50
Postcode: _____

obituaries / gazette

Sir Frank Hartley

The *Pharmaceutical Journal* of October 1930 records the achievements of some prize-winning students of pharmacy, among them one Frank Hartley of Nelson, Lancashire. In one of its more prescient moods the journal wrote: "This is indeed a prosperous opening to what we are convinced is bound to be a notable career in pharmacy." The future Vice-Chancellor of London University and Dean of its School of Pharmacy had just won the Jacob Bell scholarship after attending Nelson Municipal Secondary School and winning in 1926 the Northern Universities School Certificate with exemption from matriculation.

He had had ambitions to become a schoolteacher. Finding him deaf in one ear, the county council withdrew its bursary. On the advice of a physics master, the young Frank then decided to enter pharmacy. So at 55 Railway Street, Nelson, he began his three-year apprenticeship. His plumber father had died when Frank was five, and life was obviously a far cry from the cushioned existence of many students today. Long apprenticeship hours were coupled with evening study at college.

He passed his preliminary scientific examination and also entered and won the *Pharmaceutical Journal's* practical chemistry competitions. He competed for a variety of scholarships open to budding pharmacists. These included examinations not only in chemistry, physics, pharmacy and botany, but also required an English essay and serious attention to Latin, French or German, translating from and into the language sentences such as "Evaporation in an open air at the temperature of the atmosphere depends on that of the air, its hygrometric state and on the speed of its movement".

The pharmacy apprentices of those days had hidden talents. Frank Hartley's would out. Obviously he was destined to practise more widely than the confines of a dispensary would allow. But the ritual of combined work and study was to continue. First came qualification as a "chemist and druggist", then at the Pharmaceutical Society's School of Pharmacy in Bloomsbury Square, London, the diploma of pharmaceutical chemist. A medalist in nearly all his subjects, he became a demonstrator at the school and pursued at nearby Birkbeck College further part-time studies. He graduated with first class honours in Chemistry in 1936.

Now the goal was a PhD which he pursued under the direction of Professor W. Linnell when his teaching duties allowed. He became a Lecturer in Pharmaceutical Chemistry at the outbreak of the Second

World War. His teaching ambitions had been fulfilled at least.

At the age of 29 Hartley became Chief Chemist of Organon laboratories, a subsidiary of the Dutch company which had largely fallen under German control in Europe. Its strength was in steroids, compounds he returned to after the war when he joined British Drug Houses (BDH) as Director of Research and was involved in the development of the early oral contraceptives.

War brought great demands for antibiotics and the need to marshal the resources of industry to produce penicillin. The Therapeutic Research Corporation was charged with maximising penicillin production and initiating research into other antibiotics. The Ministry of Supply also had a Penicillin Committee. Hartley was appointed full-time secretary of the first and acted as secretary of the latter until 1946 when he joined BDH. BDH failed to market their oral contraceptive because of unacceptable side-effects. This experience no doubt was one which gave Hartley some personal authority in his role in the Committee on Safety of Drugs when this was established years later and on the Medicines Commission (as Vice-Chairman, 1974-83).

He returned as Dean to his old college, the School of Pharmacy, in 1964, still known as "the Square", now ensconced in its new premises in Brunswick Square, where it maintains its independence and its long tradition of teaching and research in pharmacy, pharmacology and toxicology. While Dean, he served on many external and university committees. He excelled as a chairman, being direct in his confrontation of issues and always having the subject in hand mastered beforehand.

Herbert Grainger recently commented that Frank Hartley "nearly always spoke at length, deploying it seemed, three or more lines of reasoning simultaneously, finally plaiting them into a rope on which he hoisted his now fatigued opponents". Not all took kindly to his pro-



Hartley: plaiting ropes

lixity. The eccentric Gladwin Buttle, Professor of Pharmacology at the Square, also somewhat deaf, though selectively, after listening to a lengthy introduction to a meeting, asked pointedly if the Dean could repeat what he had said.

Hartley was elected Deputy Vice-Chancellor of London University in 1973 and made Vice-Chancellor in 1976, shortly thereafter demitting office as Dean of the Square. Throughout this period in academia he was active outside the university on advisory committees. From 1965 to 1967 he was President of the Royal Institute (now Society) of Chemistry. Naturally for a pharmacist, trained by apprenticeship and skilled in chemistry and pharmacy, he was long associated with the standards of drugs and medicines. He served on two important commissions, that on the prevention of microbial contamination of medicinal products, and the committees of enquiry into contaminated infusion fluids which followed from the Devonport fatalities. He worked tirelessly for the British Pharmacopoeia (BP) and was chairman of the BP Commission from 1970 to 1980. Throughout the world the letters BP after a drug name signified its impeccable credentials. Pharmacopoeias are the embodiment of the standards of medicines ensuring their quality, a prelude to ensuring their safety and efficacy.

Hartley also served on the boards of governors and finance committees and councils of a wide array of bodies, the British Postgraduate Medical Federation, the British Council for the Prevention of Blindness, Kingston Polytechnic, the Royal Free Hospital and St Thomas's Medical School. He was the first pharmacist to be made an honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in 1979; later the Surgeons similarly honoured him. There were few facets of the profession of pharmacy that he did not touch, and he was knighted for his services to pharmacy.

Frank Hartley's wife, Lydia, who supported him in all his endeavours, predeceased him by a few months. One of his sons, also Frank, is now Vice-Chancellor of Cranfield University.

A. T. Florence

Frank Hartley, pharmacist: born 5 January 1911; Director of Research and Scientific Services, British Drug Houses 1946-62; Dean, School of Pharmacy, London University 1963-76; Fellow 1977; President, Royal Society of Chemistry 1965-67; CBE 1970; Deputy Vice-Chancellor, London University 1973-76; Vice-Chancellor 1976-78; Kt 1977; married 1937 Lydia England (died 1996; two sons); died Epsom, Surrey 26 January 1997.



Ritchie: 'I do seem to have made things difficult for myself'

Photograph: Geoff Downen

Walter Ritchie

The career of the sculptor Walter Ritchie provides the best 20th-century example of the artist as his own worst enemy.

In a time when recognition turns on regular showing of a man's work Ritchie only ever had two exhibitions, the second of them last year. The first was 20 years ago, at the London Building Centre, arranged by the Brick Development Association. The second was arranged by Kent County Council. He was not, you will gather, like other sculptors.

But then there were practical difficulties to showing his work, not least the partial demolition of banks, hospitals, colleges, churches, even part of the Oval cricket ground, for it was his belief that art should be on show in public places, a belief reflected in one of the first essays on his work, by the critic Margaret Aldred, published in the *Monumental Journal* in 1959. "The Street His Gallery". As he himself said ruefully, "I do seem to have made things difficult for myself".

At 18 he was commissioned by Warwickshire County Council to sculpt a mermaid riding a seahorse. They had assumed the mermaid would ride side-

saddle, but Ritchie, a realist, showed her with legs, or rather tails, apart, which horrified the councillors.

He went on to horrify many councillors in the course of his professional life. In 1953 Coventry City Council commissioned two huge panels, and the result produced the remarkable headline "Brain Peeps Shock Peeping Tom City" in the *old Daily Sketch*.

Two surrealist peeps at a man's brain in action are causing a howl of protest. The hands and arms, serpents, fish, half-women and birds, have horrified Councillor Francis Walsh: "It's like something out of a horror comic".

It was not that he set out to shock or horrify, it was just that Ritchie went his own way. Commissioned by the Metropolitan Police in 1984 to do a wall, he submitted a design showing a dark figure running through a fingerprint, and there was no commission. "Most things go wrong," said Ritchie. He did not get the decimal coinage commission either; his design for the 10-pence piece had Boadicea in a chariot with a whip. Or, the great disappointment of his career, which came when he departed from his brief to sculpt the great wall separating the sur-

rounding third of Malmesbury Abbey from its ruins. He wanted panels, wild with action, depicting the Six Virtues, and there were 19 meetings of five committees across two and a half years, and again no commission.

It did not help that he was interested in erotic sculpture. The magazine *Men Only* called in its lawyers when, in a 1978 issue, it decided to include a photograph of Ritchie's *Yes!*, a brick relief which was later bought by the directors of a London recording studio, who had been assured this study of copulation would do wonders for their acoustics.

Northampton Borough Council bought a series of brick panels but kept two of these in a walled garden locked most of the year. One which shows copulating lovers broke in two a few winters ago, but the council appears to be in no hurry to have them joined again. This would have delighted a man whose greeting on the phone was invariably "Grim as usual".

Ritchie was one of the last living apprentices of Eric Gill; he studied with him for just 18 months just after the Second World War, at Gill's workplace, Pigotts, in Buckinghamshire.

He discounted the claims made about his old master's sexual exploits. "The man I knew was near death, working flat out. He couldn't have fitted it all in," said Ritchie.

Ritchie's training had begun long before he met Gill. A car painter's son, he was already a fully competent sculptor at 18, having been trained by local masons. "They taught me how to hold a hammer and chisel, also the crowbar, a most useful tool." This left him fascinated by sheer craft, so that when he was commissioned to do the 16ft-high panel *Queen Elizabeth and the Washerwomen* for the National West Bank in Bristol in 1979 he chose to do this as a relief in intaglio. This is rarely attempted now, for it involves cutting into marble itself just inches thick, when a single blow of the chisel could shatter the whole thing. Ritchie had to relearn techniques the ancient Cretans had used on semi-precious stones.

He carved in wood, marble, steel, stone, ivory, silver, gold, alabaster, in just about everything except fibre-glass. His particular love was the 1,500 varieties of brick still made in Britain, which allowed him to explore a new world of texture

and colour in a medium of the streets. It was also very difficult, some bricks being shattered, others shattering Ritchie's carrying tools. His masterpiece is the sculpture of Len Hutton in action at the Oval cricket ground, created between 1983 and 1993, rising out of a brick background.

Unlike modern sculptors like Henry Moore, Ritchie never had assistants. His mistakes and his limitations, as he put it, were truly entirely his own. He never mixed in metropolitan circles, though the critic Herbert Read, who took him up as a young man, often urged him to come to London to gain commissions.

Walter Ritchie lived for 57 years in the house to which his family had been evacuated after the bombing of Coventry. He took a holiday once, in 1955, when he went to the Lakes, but never took one again, having been alarmed by the financial insecurity he saw at first hand in his years with Gill.

Byron Rogers

Walter Ritchie, sculptor: born Coventry 27 April 1919; died Kenilworth, Warwickshire 12 February 1997.

Christopher Hohler



Hohler: by nature an aristocrat

Alan Borg

Edward Christopher Hohler, historian and art historian: born 22 January 1917; Lecturer, Courtauld Institute of Art 1947-64; Reader 1964-79; twice married (four sons, three daughters); died Oslo 15 February 1997.

When in the 1970s the Registrar of the Courtauld Institute asked Christopher Hohler for an account of his activities for inclusion in the Annual Report, the reply he received was as follows:

I have published no books or articles in the period mentioned. Nothing I have been working on could be called a book. What I have been doing is preparing an article on "Some Early Manuscripts of English Polyphony" and another on William of Malmesbury and Glanville; I am investigating, for the benefit of two PhD candidates I am supervising, the medieval calendars and histories of churches in the ecclesiastical province of Reims... (formally, my activities for the year in the Report will, as I think they must, appear as "all" you know, and everyone else knows what I think of this kind of Report. The unprintable facts are, however, as above).

In fact, Hohler was one of a select band of scholars who shaped the Courtauld Institute in post-war Britain, making it for decades the most influential centre of art-historical study in the world. Yet his name is known to few except his colleagues and pupils and his publications were indeed limited to a small number of articles, but those which he did write of outstanding quality and importance.

He had no ambition to write books or to be quoted as the authority on any topic (although he was the authority on many). Rather, he found the past, especially the Middle Ages, endlessly intriguing, puzzling, attractive and funny. This he combined with a genial dislike of the modern world, especially as represented by all things American. He was by birth and by nature an aristocrat, whose opinions, although often politically incorrect, were always cogently expressed with wit and clarity.

His formidable intellect, nurtured both at Eton and at New College, was first directed towards archaeology, but, like many of his generation, his career was interrupted by the Second World War. This was mostly spent in Military Intelligence in the Middle East, where he stayed after the war to improve his Arabic. Returning to London in 1947 without a job, Dame Joan Evans the famous antiquary recommended him to Tom Boase at the Courtauld Institute and he worked there until he retired.

Hohler's reputation as a teacher derived from his vast range of antiquarian knowledge and his lateral approach to academic problems. This was never better demonstrated than on the legendary Courtauld Summer Schools, organised and largely funded by Barbara and Charles Robertson of Bath, which took students and teachers to often remote areas, studying medieval art at first hand. My first experience of these was in Apulia, where we went to Frederick II's hunting palace at Castel del Monte. This symmetrical building provides two floors of identically shaped rooms, but Hohler had worked out exactly how each one by analysing whether the doors opened inwards or outwards,

whether they had locks, the proximity of staircases and the provision of fireplaces.

Hohler expected his students to be equipped with the basic academic skills, which he regarded as the ability to read all major languages, both ancient and modern, and an understanding of all the different disciplines of medieval scholarship. Not surprisingly, these requirements were daunting to quite a lot of students and a number failed to last the course with him. However, those that did were richly rewarded and his generosity with his own learning was exceptional. A list of the doctoral theses which he supervised ranges from tombs in Bosnia to stained glass in Lincolnshire and Dominican patronage in Italy.

He contributed in a huge but largely unseen way to the publications of others. In retirement, living in Oslo, he kept in touch with his friends and former pupils through his extensive correspondence. A letter from Hohler, in his immaculate handwriting and closely covering several pages on both sides, would always provide the recipient with an amazing range of scholarly comment, new leads to follow and questions to ask.

His own research started with an unfinished dissertation on St Gilles-du-Gard and progressed through his contributions to the published study of the relics of St Cuthbert, to his work on the medieval pilgrim-

age to Santiago da Compostela and on Stavanger Cathedral. He was immensely widely read, especially in antiquarian research, and his knowledge of medieval texts was extensive. But all this learning was carried with an effortless charm and his friends will remember him with a Gauloise in one hand, a glass of whisky in the other, exploding with glee over the absurd antics of some little known medieval personage.

Alan Borg

Edward Christopher Hohler, historian and art historian: born 22 January 1917; Lecturer, Courtauld Institute of Art 1947-64; Reader 1964-79; twice married (four sons, three daughters); died Oslo 15 February 1997.

Hohler: by nature an aristocrat

Alan Borg

Edward Christopher Hohler, historian and art historian: born 22 January 1917; Lecturer, Courtauld Institute of Art 1947-64; Reader 1964-79; twice married (four sons, three daughters); died Oslo 15 February 1997.

Hohler: by nature an aristocrat

Alan Borg

Edward Christopher Hohler, historian and art historian: born 22 January 1917; Lecturer, Courtauld Institute of Art 1947-64; Reader 1964-79; twice married (four sons, three daughters); died Oslo 15 February 1997.

Hohler: by nature an aristocrat

Alan Borg

Edward Christopher Hohler, historian and art historian: born 22 January 1917; Lecturer, Courtauld Institute of Art 1947-64; Reader 1964-79; twice married (four sons, three daughters); died Oslo 15 February 1997.

Hohler: by nature an aristocrat

Alan Borg

Edward Christopher Hohler, historian and art historian: born 22 January 1917; Lecturer, Courtauld Institute of Art 1947-64; Reader 1964-79; twice married (four sons, three daughters); died Oslo 15 February 1997.

Hohler: by nature an aristocrat

Alan Borg

Edward Christopher Hohler, historian and art historian: born 22 January 1917; Lecturer, Courtauld Institute of Art 1947-64; Reader 1964-79; twice married (four sons, three daughters); died Oslo 15 February 1997.

Hohler: by nature an aristocrat

Alan Borg

Edward Christopher Hohler, historian and art historian: born 22 January 1917; Lecturer, Courtauld Institute of Art 1947-64; Reader 1964-79; twice married (four sons, three daughters); died Oslo 15 February 1997.

Hohler: by nature an aristocrat

Alan Borg

Edward Christopher Hohler, historian and art historian: born 22 January 1917; Lecturer, Courtauld Institute of Art 1947-64; Reader 1964-79; twice married (four sons, three daughters); died Oslo 15 February 1997.

Hohler: by nature an aristocrat

Alan Borg

Edward Christopher Hohler, historian and art historian: born 22 January 1917; Lecturer, Courtauld Institute of Art 1947-64; Reader 1964-79; twice married (four sons, three daughters); died Oslo 15 February 1997.

Hohler: by nature an aristocrat

Alan Borg

Edward Christopher Hohler, historian and art historian: born 22 January 1917; Lecturer, Courtauld Institute of Art 1947-64; Reader 1964-79; twice married (four sons, three daughters); died Oslo 15 February 1997.

Hohler: by nature an aristocrat

Alan Borg

Edward Christopher Hohler, historian and art historian: born 22 January 1917; Lecturer, Courtauld Institute of Art 1947-64; Reader 1964-79; twice married (four sons, three daughters); died Oslo 15 February 1997.

Hohler: by nature an aristocrat

Alan Borg

Edward Christopher Hohler, historian and art historian: born 22 January 1917; Lecturer, Courtauld Institute of Art 1947-64; Reader 1964-79; twice married (four sons, three daughters); died Oslo 15 February 1997.

Hohler: by nature an aristocrat

Alan Borg

Edward Christopher Hohler, historian and art historian: born 22 January 1917; Lecturer, Courtauld Institute of Art 1947-64; Reader 1964-79; twice married (four sons, three daughters); died Oslo 15 February 1997.

Hohler: by nature an aristocrat

Alan Borg

Edward Christopher Hohler, historian and art historian: born 22 January 1917; Lecturer, Courtauld Institute of Art 1947-64; Reader 1964-79; twice married (four sons, three daughters); died Oslo 15 February 1997.

Hohler: by nature an aristocrat

Alan Borg

Edward Christopher Hohler, historian and art historian: born 22 January 1917; Lecturer, Courtauld Institute of Art 1947-64; Reader 1964-79; twice married (four sons, three daughters); died Oslo 15 February 1997.

Hohler: by nature an aristocrat

Alan Borg

Edward Christopher Hohler, historian and art historian: born 22 January 1917; Lecturer, Courtauld Institute of Art 1947-64; Reader 1964-79; twice married (four sons, three daughters); died Oslo 15 February 1997.

Hohler: by nature an aristocrat

Alan Borg

Edward Christopher Hohler, historian and art historian: born 22 January 1917; Lecturer, Courtauld Institute of Art 1947-64; Reader 1964-79; twice married (four sons, three daughters); died Oslo 15 February 1997.

Hohler: by nature an aristocrat

Alan Borg

Edward Christopher Hohler, historian and art historian: born 22 January 1917; Lecturer, Courtauld Institute of Art 1947-64; Reader 1964-79; twice married (four sons, three daughters); died Oslo 15 February 1997.

Hohler: by nature an aristocrat

Alan Borg

Edward Christopher Hohler, historian and art historian: born 22 January 1917; Lecturer, Courtauld Institute of Art 1947-64; Reader 1964-79; twice married (four sons, three daughters); died Oslo 15 February 1997.

Hohler: by nature an aristocrat

Alan Borg

Edward Christopher Hohler, historian and art historian: born 22 January 1917; Lecturer, Courtauld Institute of Art 1947-64; Reader 1964-79; twice married (four sons, three daughters); died Oslo 15 February 1997.

Hohler: by nature an aristocrat

Alan Borg

Edward Christopher Hohler, historian and art historian: born 22 January 1917; Lecturer, Courtauld Institute of Art 1947-64; Reader 1964-79; twice married (four sons, three daughters); died Oslo 15 February 1997.

Hohler: by nature an aristocrat

Alan Borg

Edward Christopher Hohler, historian and art historian: born 22 January 1917; Lecturer, Courtauld Institute of Art 1947-64; Reader 1964-79; twice married (four sons, three daughters); died Oslo 15 February 1997.

Hohler: by nature an aristocrat

Alan Borg

Edward Christopher Hohler, historian and art historian: born 22 January 1917; Lecturer, Courtauld Institute of Art 1947-64; Reader 1964-79; twice married (four sons, three daughters); died Oslo 15 February 1997.

Hohler: by nature an aristocrat

Alan Borg

Edward Christopher Hohler, historian and art historian: born 22 January 1917; Lecturer, Courtauld Institute of Art 1947-64; Reader 1964-79; twice married (four sons, three daughters); died Oslo 15 February 1997.

Hohler: by nature an aristocrat

Alan Borg

Edward Christopher Hohler, historian and art historian: born 22 January 1917; Lecturer, Courtauld Institute of Art 1947-64; Reader 1964-79; twice married (four sons, three daughters); died Oslo 15 February 1997.

Hohler: by nature an aristocrat

Alan Borg

Edward Christopher Hohler, historian and art historian: born 22 January 1917; Lecturer, Courtauld Institute of Art 1947-64; Reader 1964-79; twice married (four sons, three daughters); died Oslo 15 February 1997.

Hohler: by nature an aristocrat

Alan Borg

Edward Christopher Hohler, historian and art historian: born 22 January 1917; Lecturer, Courtauld Institute of Art 1947-64; Reader 1964-79; twice married (four sons, three daughters); died Oslo 15 February 1997.

Hohler: by nature an aristocrat

Alan Borg

Edward Christopher Hohler, historian and art historian: born 22 January 1917; Lecturer, Courtauld Institute of Art 1947-64; Reader 1964-79; twice married (four sons, three daughters); died Oslo 15 February 1997.

Hohler: by nature an aristocrat

Alan Borg

Edward Christopher Hohler, historian and art historian: born 22 January 1917; Lecturer, Courtauld Institute of Art 1947-64; Reader 1964-79; twice married (four sons, three daughters); died Oslo 15 February 1997.

Hohler: by nature an aristocrat

Alan Borg

Edward Christopher Hohler, historian and art historian: born 22 January 1917; Lecturer, Courtauld Institute of Art 1947-64; Reader 1964-79; twice married (four sons, three daughters); died Oslo 15 February 1997.

Hohler: by nature an aristocrat

Alan Borg

Edward Christopher Hohler, historian and art historian: born 22 January 1917; Lecturer, Courtauld Institute of Art 1947-64; Reader 1964-79; twice married (four sons, three daughters); died Oslo 15 February 1997.

Hohler: by nature an aristocrat

Alan Borg

Edward Christopher Hohler, historian and art historian: born 22 January 1917; Lecturer, Courtauld Institute of Art 1947-64; Reader 1964-79; twice married (four sons, three daughters); died Oslo 15 February 1997.

Hohler: by nature an aristocrat

Alan Borg

Edward Christopher Hohler, historian and art historian: born 22 January 1917; Lecturer, Courtauld Institute of Art 1947-64; Reader 1964-79; twice married (four sons, three daughters); died Oslo 15 February 1997.

unit trusts

Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Sterling	1 month 3 months		Country	Sterling	1 month 3 months		D-MARK
		Spot	1 month 3 months			Spot	1 month 3 months	
US	1.50	1.50	1.50	US	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Canada	0.65	0.65	0.65	Canada	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65
France	6.55	6.55	6.55	France	6.55	6.55	6.55	6.55
Germany	1.36	1.36	1.36	Germany	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36
Italy	1.36	1.36	1.36	Italy	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36
Japan	160.70	160.70	160.70	Japan	160.70	160.70	160.70	160.70
ECU	1.36	1.36	1.36	ECU	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36
Belgium	3.36	3.36	3.36	Belgium	3.36	3.36	3.36	3.36
Netherlands	2.36	2.36	2.36	Netherlands	2.36	2.36	2.36	2.36
Denmark	6.46	6.46	6.46	Denmark	6.46	6.46	6.46	6.46
Sweden	8.46	8.46	8.46	Sweden	8.46	8.46	8.46	8.46
Spain	166.48	166.48	166.48	Spain	166.48	166.48	166.48	166.48
Portugal	200.48	200.48	200.48	Portugal	200.48	200.48	200.48	200.48
Greece	340.75	340.75	340.75	Greece	340.75	340.75	340.75	340.75
Switzerland	1.36	1.36	1.36	Switzerland	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36
Australia	1.50	1.50	1.50	Australia	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
New Zealand	1.50	1.50	1.50	New Zealand	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Saudi Arabia	0.40	0.40	0.40	Saudi Arabia	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40
Singapore	0.40	0.40	0.40	Singapore	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40

OTHER SPOT RATES

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	160.70	0.0000	Argentina	160.70	0.0000
Australia	1.50	0.0000	Australia	1.50	0.0000
Canada	0.65	0.0000	Canada	0.65	0.0000
France	6.55	0.0000	France	6.55	0.0000
Germany	1.36	0.0000	Germany	1.36	0.0000
Italy	1.36	0.0000	Italy	1.36	0.0000
Japan	160.70	0.0000	Japan	160.70	0.0000
ECU	1.36	0.0000	ECU	1.36	0.0000
Belgium	3.36	0.0000	Belgium	3.36	0.0000
Netherlands	2.36	0.0000	Netherlands	2.36	0.0000
Denmark	6.46	0.0000	Denmark	6.46	0.0000
Sweden	8.46	0.0000	Sweden	8.46	0.0000
Spain	166.48	0.0000	Spain	166.48	0.0000
Portugal	200.48	0.0000	Portugal	200.48	0.0000
Greece	340.75	0.0000	Greece	340.75	0.0000
Switzerland	1.36	0.0000	Switzerland	1.36	0.0000
Australia	1.50	0.0000	Australia	1.50	0.0000
New Zealand	1.50	0.0000	New Zealand	1.50	0.0000
Saudi Arabia	0.40	0.0000	Saudi Arabia	0.40	0.0000
Singapore	0.40	0.0000	Singapore	0.40	0.0000

Tourist Rates

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	160.70	0.0000	Argentina	160.70	0.0000
Australia	1.50	0.0000	Australia	1.50	0.0000
Canada	0.65	0.0000	Canada	0.65	0.0000
France	6.55	0.0000	France	6.55	0.0000
Germany	1.36	0.0000	Germany	1.36	0.0000
Italy	1.36	0.0000	Italy	1.36	0.0000
Japan	160.70	0.0000	Japan	160.70	0.0000
ECU	1.36	0.0000	ECU	1.36	0.0000
Belgium	3.36	0.0000	Belgium	3.36	0.0000
Netherlands	2.36	0.0000	Netherlands	2.36	0.0000
Denmark	6.46	0.0000	Denmark	6.46	0.0000
Sweden	8.46	0.0000	Sweden	8.46	0.0000
Spain	166.48	0.0000	Spain	166.48	0.0000
Portugal	200.48	0.0000	Portugal	200.48	0.0000
Greece	340.75	0.0000	Greece	340.75	0.0000
Switzerland	1.36	0.0000	Switzerland	1.36	0.0000
Australia	1.50	0.0000	Australia	1.50	0.0000
New Zealand	1.50	0.0000	New Zealand	1.50	0.0000
Saudi Arabia	0.40	0.0000	Saudi Arabia	0.40	0.0000
Singapore	0.40	0.0000	Singapore	0.40	0.0000

Interest Rates

Country	Rate	Country	Rate	Country	Rate
US	5.00%	US	5.00%	US	5.00%
UK	5.00%	UK	5.00%	UK	5.00%
France	5.00%	France	5.00%	France	5.00%
Germany	5.00%	Germany	5.00%	Germany	5.00%
Italy	5.00%	Italy	5.00%	Italy	5.00%
Japan	5.00%	Japan	5.00%	Japan	5.00%
ECU	5.00%	ECU	5.00%	ECU	5.00%
Belgium	5.00%	Belgium	5.00%	Belgium	5.00%
Netherlands	5.00%	Netherlands	5.00%	Netherlands	5.00%
Denmark	5.00%	Denmark	5.00%	Denmark	5.00%
Sweden	5.00%	Sweden	5.00%	Sweden	5.00%
Spain	5.00%	Spain	5.00%	Spain	5.00%
Portugal	5.00%	Portugal	5.00%	Portugal	5.00%
Greece	5.00%	Greece	5.00%	Greece	5.00%
Switzerland	5.00%	Switzerland	5.00%	Switzerland	5.00%
Australia	5.00%	Australia	5.00%	Australia	5.00%
New Zealand	5.00%	New Zealand	5.00%	New Zealand	5.00%
Saudi Arabia	5.00%	Saudi Arabia	5.00%	Saudi Arabia	5.00%
Singapore	5.00%	Singapore	5.00%	Singapore	5.00%

Bond Yields

Country	5 yr	10 yr	15 yr	20 yr	Country	5 yr	10 yr	15 yr	20 yr
US	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	US	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
UK	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	UK	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
France	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	France	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Germany	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	Germany	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Italy	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	Italy	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Japan	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	Japan	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
ECU	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	ECU	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Belgium	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	Belgium	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Netherlands	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	Netherlands	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Denmark	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	Denmark	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Sweden	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	Sweden	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Spain	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	Spain	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Portugal	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	Portugal	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Greece	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	Greece	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Switzerland	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	Switzerland	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Australia	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	Australia	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
New Zealand	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	New Zealand	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Saudi Arabia	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	Saudi Arabia	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Singapore	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	Singapore	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%

Money Market Rates

Country	Rate	Country	Rate	Country	Rate
US	5.00%	US	5.00%	US	5.00%
UK	5.00%	UK	5.00%	UK	5.00%
France	5.00%	France	5.00%	France	5.00%
Germany	5.00%	Germany	5.00%	Germany	5.00%
Italy	5.00%	Italy	5.00%	Italy	5.00%
Japan	5.00%	Japan	5.00%	Japan	5.00%
ECU	5.00%	ECU	5.00%	ECU	5.00%
Belgium	5.00%	Belgium	5.00%	Belgium	5.00%
Netherlands	5.00%	Netherlands	5.00%	Netherlands	5.00%
Denmark	5.00%	Denmark	5.00%	Denmark	5.00%
Sweden	5.00%	Sweden	5.00%	Sweden	5.00%
Spain	5.00%	Spain	5.00%	Spain	5.00%
Portugal	5.00%	Portugal	5.00%	Portugal	5.00%
Greece	5.00%	Greece	5.00%	Greece	5.00%
Switzerland	5.00%	Switzerland	5.00%	Switzerland	5.00%
Australia	5.00%	Australia	5.00%	Australia	5.00%
New Zealand	5.00%	New Zealand	5.00%	New Zealand	5.00%
Saudi Arabia	5.00%	Saudi Arabia	5.00%	Saudi Arabia	5.00%
Singapore	5.00%	Singapore	5.00%	Singapore	5.00%

Liffe Financial Futures

Contract	Settlement price	High/Low for day	Est. Cont'd	Open Interest
Long GB	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Short GB	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Long US	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Short US	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Long Euro	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Short Euro	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Long Japan	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Short Japan	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Long Australia	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Short Australia	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Long New Zealand	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Short New Zealand	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Long Saudi Arabia	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Short Saudi Arabia	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Long Singapore	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Short Singapore	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Liffe FTSE Index Option

Settlement price	4335	4335	4335	4335	4335
Strike	4335	4335	4335	4335	4335
Call/Put	Call	Call	Call	Call	Call
Price	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Volume	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Open Interest	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Commodities

Commodity	Price	Change	Commodity	Price	Change
Oil	100.00	0.00	Oil	100.00	0.00
Gold	100.00	0.00	Gold	100.00	0.00
Silver	100.00	0.00	Silver	100.00	0.00
Copper	100.00	0.00	Copper	100.00	0.00
Aluminum	100.00	0.00	Aluminum	100.00	0.00
Zinc	100.00	0.00	Zinc	100.00	0.00
Nickel	100.00	0.00	Nickel	100.00	0.00
Lead	100.00	0.00	Lead	100.00	0.00
Iron Ore	100.00	0.00	Iron Ore	100.00	0.00
Wheat	100.00	0.00	Wheat	100.00	0.00
Corn	100.00	0.00	Corn	100.00	0.00
Soybeans	100.00	0.00	Soybeans	100.00	0.00
Cotton	100.00	0.00	Cotton	100.00	0.00
Wool	100.00	0.00	Wool	100.00	0.00
Rubber	100.00	0.00	Rubber	100.00	0.00
Sugar	100.00	0.00	Sugar	100.00	0.00
Cocoa	100.00	0.00	Cocoa	100.00	0.00
Tea	100.00	0.00	Tea	100.00	0.00
Coffee	100.00	0.00	Coffee	100.00	0.00
Spices	100.00	0.00	Spices	100.00	0.00

AGRICULTURAL

Commodity	Price	Change	Commodity	Price	Change
Wheat	100.00	0.00	Wheat	100.00	0.00
Corn	100.00	0.00	Corn	100.00	0.00
Soybeans	100.00	0.00	Soybeans	100.00	0.00
Cotton	100.00	0.00	Cotton	100.00	0.00
Wool	100.00	0.00	Wool	100.00	0.00
Rubber	100.00	0.00	Rubber	100.00	0.00
Sugar	100.00	0.00	Sugar	100.00	0.00
Cocoa	100.00	0.00	Cocoa	100.00	0.00
Tea	100.00	0.00	Tea	100.00	0.00
Coffee	100.00	0.00	Coffee	100.00	0.00
Spices	100.00	0.00	Spices	100.00	0.00

COMMODITY INDEXES

Aug	20230	Mar	1540	May	580	Mar	2010-2750	2000
Oct	20800	Jul	305	Oct	580	May	2040-2150	2015
Nov	985	Index	1457	Jul	1580	Mar	2030-2750	2705

Other Sides (Agriculture)

Oilseeds (All ¹)	\$/bush	1480	Feb/Mar	Soy, Oil	FL/1000	8550	
Jan/Feb	Maple (1)	\$/bush	1480	Feb/Mar	Coconut Oil (1)	\$/bush	7650
Mar	Cotton (N1)	\$/lb	73.43	Jul	Sunflower Oil	\$/bush	5050
Apr	Wool	Australian	1480	Jul	Repined Oil	FL/1000	9600
May	Rubber	Thailand	303.5	Feb/Mar	Gum Arabic (1)	\$/bush	8550

¹Source: CBO - many other - USDA/International Markets - ²Domestic Bureau of Economic Analysis

business & city

Business news desk: tel 0171-293 2636 fax 0171-293 2098
BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Barclays Bank makes record £2.36bn profit

Jill Treanor
Banking Correspondent

Barclays Bank yesterday announced record profits of £2.36bn for 1996, infuriating unions who are fighting pay claims for high street clerical banking staff dogged by low morale.

Unifi, the union for Barclays staff, said the workforce was seeking a break from the 21,000 redundancies that have been made since 1991.

"It's not the size of the profits [that worries us] but what is done with them. In particular, staff have been paid sub-inflation rises for the past three or four years," said Patrick Erant, national officer of Unifi.

The union was also frustrated by the bank's refusal to make commitments to no compulsory redundancies. "We're six weeks into the new year and we're already aware of 800 jobs due to go," said Mr Erant.

The bank has surplus funds of around £500m that Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays, said yesterday he intended to return to shareholders.

Barclays has bought back more than £1bn of shares in the past 18 months and yesterday further rewarded shareholders with a 21 per cent rise in the final dividend to 20p.

However, the bank's shares fell more than 5 per cent yesterday, the biggest fall in the FTSE 100 index, after Barclays announced that BZW, its investment banking arm, had suffered a sharp fall in profits during the second half of the year. A strong performance in other areas of its business, notably UK Banking Services, gave Barclays the scope to increase its dividend and make the promise to return more money to shareholders.

All three areas of UK Banking Services—personal banking, business banking and cross-border services—recorded profit increases. Profits in the personal banking unit jumped to £773m from £659m, while business banking profits rose to £801m from £754m.

Mr Taylor said Barclays Life had improved to produce a 35 per cent increase in sales of life,

pension and investment products. Barclaycard, savings products and consumer lending also made solid contributions and balances on current accounts were higher.

The bank's personal banking business faced an upheaval in the early 1990s when the bank started to close many branches. Barclays now has 2,000 branches and it expects to close another 20 or so this year.

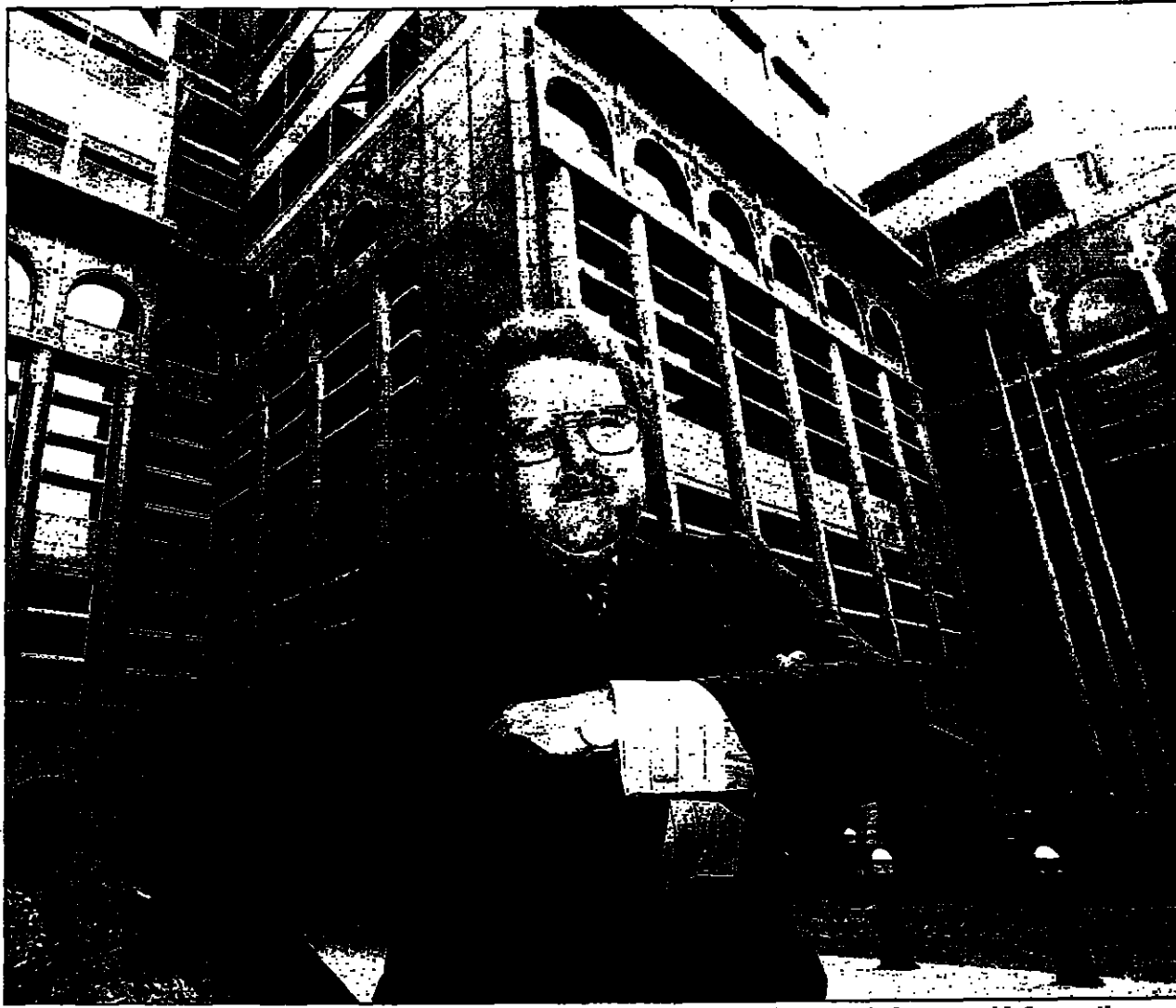
The bank, like all the others on the high street, is offering more telephone banking services and it is piloting a PC-based home banking service. It also faces competition from new entrants to banking, such as supermarkets, but Barclays made clear yesterday it had no intention of pairing up with supermarkets to offer banking services. Instead, it aims to open its own branches at stores.

Barclays attracted more than 200,000 customers for its Additions banking services, a bank account which requires customers to pay a fee of £5 every month, regardless of whether or not they are overdrawn. Similar schemes are being introduced by other clearing banks and Stuart Cliffe, chief executive of the National Association of Bank Customers, said this was a way of introducing bank charges by the back door.

Mr Cliffe argued that banks' record profits should show any ideas of charging for personal banking.

The British Bankers' Association said 80 per cent of banking clients did not incur any charges. It said research by banks showed that a significant minority of banking customers were prepared to pay for enhanced banking services.

Comment, page 19



Banking on new staff at BZW: Bill Harrison, who moved from Robert Fleming last year to become chief executive

BZW results hit by staff costs

Profits at BZW, Barclays' investment banking arm, dropped by 29 per cent last year in stark contrast with many of its rivals which made record profits, writes Jill Treanor.

Operating profits at BZW slid to £24m in 1996, confirming the concerns of many analysts who had feared that heavy staff turnover at BZW, run by Bill Harrison, the recently installed chief executive, would take its toll. Despite the profits fall, however, BZW set aside an additional £22m to pay bonuses last year.

Banking analysts remain worried about BZW's prospects for this year. One said that if the

bank could not muster a good year in 1996 then perhaps it never would. And several analysts yesterday started to downgrade their forecasts for the whole Barclays banking group, amid concerns that City expectations had been pitched too high.

Overall, total costs at BZW rose by £160m. That was much faster than income which rose by just 7 per cent in the year.

The rise in costs was even sharper in the second half. Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays, said costs rose 20 per cent when compared with the first half. In the second half, when most of the management changes took place, BZW pro-

duced less than £50m of operating profits.

BZW's return on equity was just 8 per cent in 1996, and Mr Taylor said that would not be tolerated for long.

Of the £160m increase in costs, he said £120m could be attributed to payments to staff. BZW spent £45m on "upgrading" – hiring and firing staff – during the year.

"This is an entirely deliberate process. What we could have done is do nothing. That would have achieved a higher profit today and a much weaker business," Mr Taylor said. He said Barclays was committed to developing BZW into

a "formidable competitor" but predicted that costs would remain high in the first-half of this year, especially as BZW was due to start moving to new offices in Canary Wharf in London's Docklands in April.

The real question, he said, was when the new staff would start to generate revenue.

BZW has hired several top executives since the death of David Band, its chief executive, early last year. Mr Harrison was hired from Robert Fleming to replace Mr Band while Bob Diamond was brought in from Credit Suisse on a multi-million pound pay deal to head the markets division.

PSBR on target after surprise surge in receipts

Diane Coyle
Economics Editor

Kenneth Clarke's claim to sound management of the economy was boosted yesterday by news of an unexpectedly large surplus of government receipts over spending last month.

Economists said the £5.8bn repayment of debt in January, nearly twice as much as expected, might take total government borrowing below its target this financial year. Tax revenues were running ahead of the Budget forecast, while government spending was not growing as fast as many experts feared.

The Chancellor said: "It shows we are certainly going to hit our target. We might do even better, although I won't count my chickens. We'll wait to see what happens at the end of the year."

The surprise on the government finance front, along with confirmation from the Governor of the Bank of England on Monday that the strong pound meant he was now seeking only a quarter rather than a half point rise in interest rates, combined to knock four pennings off sterling's exchange rate yesterday. It closed at DM2.7085, while its index against a range of currencies fell 1.2 to 96.8.

Analysts in the City predicted an improvement in the state of the public finances in the coming months. "The outlook is reasonably good with growth so strong," said Kevin Gardiner, an economist at Morgan Stanley. Growth would bolster tax revenues, although spending was also likely to overshoot its plans.

However, many remain concerned about the Government's financial position. John O'Sullivan at MacWest Markets said: "The recovery started five years ago and the deficit is still falling fairly slowly. Should we not be closer to balance at this stage of the cycle?"

Liberal Democrat spokesman Malcolm Bruce pressed home the same message. "The reality is at the moment that the public sector borrowing requirement [PSBR] is exceeded by the amount of interest we pay on the national debt," he said.

In an interview on BBC radio, Mr Clarke made clear the Conservatives' hope that the Government's economic record will be a vote-winner.

"If there are people out there who think New Labour or the Liberal Democrats could do better than that, good luck to them. But I actually think when the time comes they will think very carefully about plunging out of where we are now into a risk of that kind," he said.

High tax revenues explained the surprise £5.8bn repayment in January. One element, a surge in VAT receipts, was expected after a lower than normal figure in December. The payment on account system is leading to a concentration on VAT payments into the first month of each quarter.

Even so, growth in VAT revenues has been 15 per cent in the financial year to date, in contrast to the unaccountably low receipts the previous year. Corporation tax revenues, which are always strongest in October and January, were a little better than the Treasury had expected. They are up nearly 11 per cent year-on-year and have already overtaken the full-year forecast contained in November's Budget.

Set against the good news on the tax front, departmental spending is growing at a year-on-year rate of nearly 3 per cent compared with the 2 per cent Treasury forecast.

Comment, page 19

Britannic declares bonuses

Peter Rodgers
Financial Editor

Britannic Assurance policyholders will be hundreds of pounds better off after sharing a £209m special bonus declared yesterday. But shareholders are to be awarded more than four times as much as the 1.2 million policyholders.

The company said yesterday it had agreed with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) that £90m of the assets in Britannic's life funds belong to shareholders. They will not receive a direct payout of the windfall but instead will get an 82 per cent lift in the dividend.

Britannic said the new higher level of dividends would not be a one-off but would be regarded as a platform for future increases. The agreement with the DTI

is over the so-called "orphan assets" in the company's life insurance funds, which have been built up over many years as investment returns have exceeded the amount the company has had to pay policyholders.

Negotiations with the DTI have been over how the orphan assets should be split between shareholders and policyholders. This decision led to a drop in shares in Prudential, which has made clear that it is becoming increasingly impatient with the DTI for delays in unlocking its own stock of orphan assets.

Analysis said the 8.5p fall to 564.5p in Pru's shares was because Britannic had been unable to persuade the DTI that the orphan assets in its ordinary, rather than industrial, life insurance business should be released to shareholders.

For Britannic, the ordinary business was only £58m of the £960m of assets it wanted to assign to shareholders. But for the Pru, which has at least £3bn of orphan assets, the ordinary insurance is thought to be a more significant part of the total.

At the end of 1995, Britannic had £5.862bn of assets in its life insurance funds of which £4.7bn now belongs to policyholders.

The value of shareholders' interests in the business totals £1.55bn, including the orphan assets, the value of policies in force and also of new business written during 1995. The total is likely to have risen to £1.7bn by the end of last year. The shares rose 66.5p to 870p after the announcement.

The bonuses to policyholders will not be paid in cash but would be added to the value of policies.

A maturing 15-year industrial life insurance policy with a premium of £10 a week would receive an additional £221 bonus.

A maturing 25-year ordinary branch endowment policy with a £20 a month premium will receive an additional £763 bonus.

A 10-year endowment policy taken out seven years ago with a £50 a month premium would receive an additional £273 on maturity.

Britannic also announced a new efficiency drive, with new sales management and premium collection systems and new investment in market analysis and product research. These moves would lead to a £25m saving in operating costs.

Brian Shaw, chief executive, said Britannic's with-profits funds were still among the strongest in the industry.

Bid by Roditi may signal move to stock market

Nic Cicutti
Personal Finance Editor

The mystery surrounding Nicholas Roditi, the publicity-shy investment manager with an estimated annual income of £50m, deepened yesterday after his privately-owned firm, Roditi International, said it was considering a bid for Plantation & General Investments, a small quoted company.

Roditi said that if an offer were made for Plantation & General, it would be in the region of 58p per share, valuing the company at slightly below £20m. Plantation shares yesterday rose 9p to close at 61.5p. The potential bid, which

Roditi said was conditional on the support of Plantation directors and "certain major shareholders", led to speculation yesterday that Mr Roditi may be looking for a suitable quoted vehicle to make his stock market debut.

Plantation, registered in London, is a holding company with a range of interests, including tea estates in Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Malawi, together with coffee, sisal and rubber plantations.

The company also owns several small agricultural hand tool companies making plantation hoes in Thailand and Brazil. Plantation made profits after tax of almost £4.6m in 1995.

Mr Roditi, who refuses all press interviews, was named last year by *Financial World*, a New York-based magazine, as being in the top 10 money makers among US finance houses. He chooses to work from a small, nondescript office above branches of Gap and the Body Shop in Hampstead High Street, London.

Mr Roditi manages a key part of the Quantum Quota fund on behalf of George Soros, the financier who shot to fame after making £650m from Britain's ERM crisis in 1992. Last year Mr Roditi delivered a return of 160 per cent for investors. In cash terms the value of the fund shot up from £350m to £900m.

Out of the Cup, now Birmingham are in for a flotation



David Sullivan: Club owner is a soft porn publisher

Patrick Toohar

With the timing of a bad Vinnie Jones tackle, Birmingham City will today unveil plans for a £25m stock market flotation in an effort to raise cash for manager Trevor Francis to buy players and stave off the threat of relegation from the Nationwide First Division.

Details of the flotation come just days after the club's humiliating exit from the FA Cup at the hands of Wrexham of the Second Division. The 1-3 home defeat provoked an outbreak of crowd trouble among Birmingham's fans, reviving memories of

a hooligan past just as football is trying to a project more user-friendly, family-oriented image.

Nobody ever said Birmingham City was a conventional football club. Owned by the soft porn publisher David Sullivan and followed by a hard core of infamous fans, Birmingham created history in 1993 by appointing Karen Brady, 23, as the first woman to run a professional football club.

True to form, the prospectus shows that Birmingham took the highly unusual step of asking Howard Wilkinson, the Football Association's technical director, to value the squad,

even though Birmingham admits the former Leeds United manager has no formal qualifications as an accountant or auditor.

As remarkable as Ms Brady's claim that income would increase even if Birmingham dropped down into Division Two: "The last time we were there two seasons ago we played 63 games. You have the Auto Windscreens Trophy and you get into the other cup competitions earlier."

Analysts are not sure that spending money will secure success on the field. They recalled that Barry Fry, the previous manager, sold a record 46

players for £5.6m and spent £7m on 41 new signings during his two-and-a-half year reign, but Birmingham still failed to win a major honour.

There is also concern that last year's £4.4m wage bill was slightly higher than the club's gate receipts – the largest single source of the club's £7.34m turnover. Last year the club made a profit before transfer fees of £803,000.

Birmingham is raising £7.5m to buy players and make improvements to the St Andrew's ground via a placing of up to 15 million shares at 50p on the junior A-

ternative Investment Market. Sport Newspapers, jointly owned by Mr Sullivan and the Gold brothers of Ann Summers lingerie fame, will retain control but its stake will be cut from 84.2 per cent to 58.9 per cent. A previous interest-free loan from Sport Newspapers is being formalised into an interest-free 3-year loan of £6.57m.

The offer closes on 26 February – just days before this season's transfer deadline.

Ms Brady, who is married to a former Birmingham player, reckons Trevor Francis should buy a striker and a midfield man. People & Business, page 21



Trevor Francis: Needs players to stave off relegation

STOCK MARKETS				
£/\$	£/DM	£/¥		
1.04	2.78	160		
1.02	2.72	150		
1.00	2.68	140		
0.98	2.64	130		
0.96	2.60	120		
0.94	2.56	110		
0.92	2.52	100		
0.90	2.48	90		
0.88	2.44	80		
0.86	2.40	70		
0.84	2.36	60		
0.82	2.32	50		
0.80	2.28	40		
0.78	2.24	30		
0.76	2.20	20		
0.74	2.16	10		
0.72	2.12	0		
0.70	2.08			
0.68	2.04			
0.66	2.00			
0.64	1.96			
0.62	1.92			
0.60	1.88			
0.58	1.84			
0.56	1.80			
0.54	1.76			
0.52	1.72			
0.50	1.68			
0.48	1.64			
0.46	1.60			
0.44	1.56			
0.42	1.52			
0.40	1.48			
0.38	1.44			
0.36	1.40			
0.34	1.36			
0.32	1.32			
0.30	1.28			
0.28	1.24			
0.26	1.20			
0.24	1.16			
0.22	1.12			
0.20	1.08			
0.18	1.04			
0.16	1.00			
0.14	0.96			
0.12	0.92			
0.10	0.88			
0.08	0.84			
0.06	0.80			
0.04	0.76			
0.02	0.72			
0.00	0.68			
0.00	0.64			
0.00	0.60			
0.00	0.56			
0.00	0.52			
0.00	0.48			
0.00	0.44			
0.00	0.40			
0.00	0.36			
0.00	0.32			
0.00	0.28			
0.00	0.24			
0.00	0.20			
0.00	0.16			
0.00	0.12			
0.00	0.08			
0.00	0.04			
0.00	0.00			

INTEREST RATES							
Short sterling*	UK medium gilt	US long bond					
<small>* US short term constant</small>							
<small>† January 30, 1985</small>							
Money Market Rates		Bond Yields *					
Index	1 Month	1 Year	Medium Term (%)	Year Ago	Long Bond	Q6 Year Ago	
UK	5.00	5.50	7.09	7.85	7.18	8.00	
US	5.31	5.75	9.28	5.73	6.70	6.20	
Japan	5.44	6.44	2.50	3.05	-	-	
Germany	3.18	3.25	5.45	6.34	6.28	-	
<small>* Residents' indices</small>							
MAIN PRICE CHANGES							
Rises	Falls	Change (p)	Change (c)	Falls	Falls (p)	Change (p)	% Change
Electronic Auction 2722	280.3 4.3			Barcelona 1125	20.6 1.9		



COMMENT

There could hardly be a starker contrast than that between the poor profits, bumper pay packets and brutal management restructuring at BZW, and the buoyant profits, restrained costs and feeling of purpose that characterises the main UK clearing bank.

When investment banking becomes a burden

Is BZW now little more than a millstone for the Barclays group, a business it would far better be shot of, or will the strategy adopted of staying with investment banking, investing in it and encouraging it, eventually be vindicated? We are unlikely to know the answer one way or another for a while yet but certainly the commitment shown towards BZW is beginning to look a lot more high risk than it was. Sir Brian Pitman, chairman of Lloyds TSB, has always taken the view that the culture, pay and underlying business of investment banking is so alien to that of a good old-fashioned clearing bank that the two can never live happily together. Looking at Barclays' results yesterday, you begin to understand what he means.

There could hardly be a starker contrast than that between the poor profits, bumper pay packets and brutal management restructuring at BZW, and the buoyant profits, restrained costs and feeling of purpose that characterises the main UK clearing bank.

The problems of BZW have spoilt an otherwise glowing performance from Bar-

clays and prompted some unfavourable comparisons with Lloyds TSB. How is it, many analysts were saying yesterday, that Lloyds can both grow its business by more than Barclays and also show Barclays the way in terms of cost-cutting. The Lloyds TSB cost base went down last year. At Barclays it went up. Part of the answer lies with BZW.

Strip that out and the comparison looks rather more flattering. The comparison is also unfair on a number of other levels. Barclays has chosen to write off the cost of mortgage incentives, Lloyds to take them into profits. Lloyds also wrote back some Third World debt while cost cutting and restructuring is largely being paid for out of reserves. Taken together, these factors might have been worth anything up to £500m to Lloyds TSB profits.

Nor can anyone argue too much with the 23 per cent return on equity now being achieved at Barclays. Even adjusting for the credit cycle, Barclays reckons its return is now 19 per cent and rising. If this is sustainable, then the shares ought to be on a significantly higher rating. Indeed the problem for most ordinary folk with these profits is not that they are too low, but that they seem excessive. Outside the City they will be viewed as the misbegotten spoils of the banking oligopoly.

There's no doubt who has the more realistic take on this. As always it is the general public, for the greatest threat to banking profits comes not from the sort of fancy

acquisitions and ill-judged lending that used to lay them low, but from new competition, attracted by the very high returns now showing through. Barclays, then, faces a double challenge. Getting BZW back on course is going to be hard enough. Tougher still will be defending the franchise from the army of newcomers being assembled against it.

Putting PR gloss on a serious loss

Buying shares in businesses whose main assets go up and down in the lift every day is always going to be a risky affair. There is an argument that people businesses like Shandwick should not be quoted companies at all. Yesterday's defection by four of the company's financial PR subsidiary's 13-strong board, principally because they felt frustrated at their lack of equity participation in Shandwick's success, underscored the point. The shares tumbled 10 per cent on the loss.

Shandwick, of course, took the blow in its stride, its fluent patter barely missing a beat as it painted a happy picture of amicable departures, smooth transitions, supportive clients. It's only five out of 100 hardworking staff, the gloss went. We wish them well. The fact remains, however, that Shandwick has lost five of its most senior staff and it will be powerless to keep those clients who choose to move with the people who handled their accounts. Contractual obligations are

not worth the paper they are printed on in these situations. No one can stop a client moving agency if it feels so inclined.

Whether it is chutzpah or pure stupidity which has led the founders of The Hogarth Partnership to name their new company after the painter of gin-swilling depravity remains to be seen. Given that they plan to launch their new venture on April Fool's day, there's a strong temptation to think the latter. They must also be hoping a new PR venture is not the clearest imaginable sign of the top of the market. When soon-to-be floated Citigate staged a similar walk-out at the high tide of the 1980s boom, it faced a long haul through the recession before its founders could even start to think about cashing in their chips.

Budget should be balanced by now

So far Ken Clarke's crossed fingers are doing the trick. Hopes that everything in the economy will be rosy in the run-up to the election have so far been fulfilled. Growth has been steady, inflation low if a bit disappointing. On Monday the Governor of the Bank of England admitted the strong pound had made the need for higher interest rates less pressing, although he thought it remained. This concession was followed by yesterday's news of a surprisingly big repayment of government debt last month.

Let us give the Chancellor some credit. Government borrowing could have been in much worse shape than it is. Since Mr Clarke stepped in to the chaos left after Norman Lamont's tenure, he has achieved wonders in terms of slowing growth in government spending and reducing expectations about future public expenditure. If he had not been unlucky with the missing VAT millions last financial year, the public finances would be in better shape still.

But this should not deflect attention from the fact that after five years of economic recovery, the Government should have made the Budget at least balanced. After all, Nigel Lawson managed to run a surplus for three years. If tax revenues are not going to catch up with spending this year and next, they never will – or at least not without some drastic surgery.

This message will prove all too easy for politicians – of either party – to ignore during the next year or so. As long as the economy turns out to be as strong as predicted, buoyant tax revenues will help put government borrowing on an impressive downward path.

But the fact remains that Mr Clarke should not have squandered the budgetary benefits of the big tax increases pushed through after the 1992 election. If he had not bowed to the pressure to offer a discreet bribe to voters in the 18 months before the last possible election date, Britain's public finances really would be something to boast about.

Granada sells Welcome Break for hefty £476m

Nigel Cope

Granada made further progress on its disposal programme yesterday when it agreed to sell the Welcome Break motorway service stations to Investcorp, the Bahrain-based investment group, for a top-of-the-range price of £476m.

The deal ends Granada's virtual monopoly of British motorway service station sites that has existed since last year's £3.9bn takeover of the Forte hotels group.

Granada is also selling the Westbury hotels in London and New York to Chelsfield, the property group, for £90m. Chelsfield plans to extend and refurbish the two hotels and incorporate them into the Wentworth Club, which owns the Surrey golf club. It is possible the Wentworth Club will then be floated on the stock market.

The price tag of the Welcome Break deal surprised the City, which had expected a £400m-£450m deal in spite of a raft of bidders thought to include Asda, Tesco, National Express and venture capital group Cin-

Ven. Richard Warner, a member of the Investcorp management committee, denied the group had paid too much. "It may appear a full price but we view the company as a strategic platform to develop other motorway service station businesses."

After the sale of Thom Lighting Group, Investcorp has no UK businesses but said yesterday it was on the hunt for more UK deals. "We have ambitions to acquire companies in the UK, Europe and internationally," Mr Warner said.

Marriott International, the US hotels group, is to pay \$1bn (\$625m) for Renaissance Hotels of the Netherlands. Renaissance operates and franchises 150 hotels in 38 countries under names such as New World and Ramada.

The deal forced Doubletree Hotels to withdraw from the fray, saying the price was too high.

The combined group will operate or franchise more than 1,300 hotels around the world including nearly 200 outside the US. JWS Marriott, chairman of Marriott International, said the deal provided a dramatic increase in rooms and market position for Marriott. "With the addition of these brands we immediately reach customers in 40 new markets including Russia, China, Japan and India. It more than doubles our presence outside the US."

Marriott plans to open more hotels under the New World name in the Asia-Pacific region. The Renaissance brand will be expanded in America.

Investcorp has owned several well-known businesses in Europe, including Gucci and Mondri. The German fashion company. It plans to invest £50m in the 21 Welcome Break sites and seek further sites. A service station on the M40 near Oxford is planned and Investcorp estimates there is room for a further 15-20 service stations if planning permission can be obtained.

Michael Guthrie, the entrepreneur who sold his Pavilion motorway business to Granada in 1995, has been appointed

chairman and acting chief executive of the Welcome Break chain. Welcome Break recorded operating profits of £32m on turnover of £335m last year.

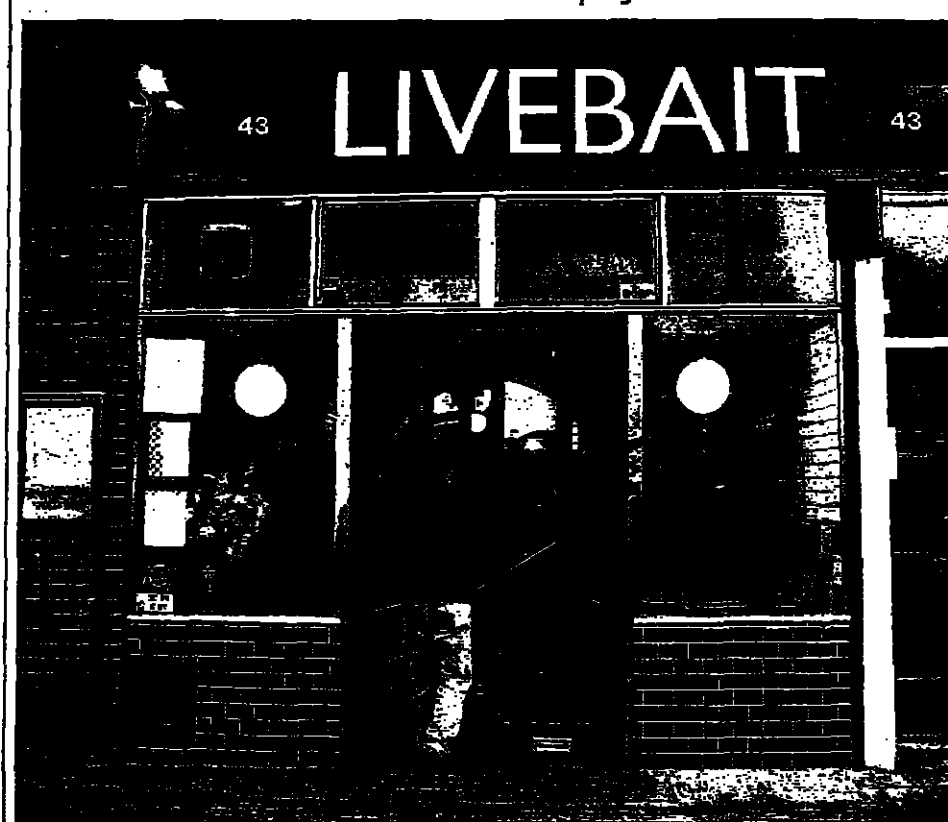
Elliott Bernard, Chelsfield's chairman, said his group's £90m purchase of the two Westbury hotels would herald increased investment in the hotels' retailing interests. Chelsfield plans to increase the retail revenues of the London hotel, on the corner of Bond Street and Conduit Street, from £200,000 to £2m. Retail revenues at the Westbury on New York's Madison Avenue could increase from \$800,000 to \$4m, Mr Bernard said.

The two hotels produced pre-tax profits of £5m on turnover of £22.8m last year.

The Welcome Break and Westbury deals take Granada's total disposals since the Forte deal to £1.2bn. Still to be sold are 11 more Exclusive hotels and the stake in the Savoy Group.

Charles Allen, Granada's chief executive, said: "Welcome Break and the Westbury hotels have been sold for excellent prices."

Chéz Gérard restaurant chain pays £1.6m to move south of the river



Livebait, the London fish restaurant, was acquired yesterday by Groupe Chéz Gérard for up to £1.6m. The deal takes the Scots to Bortolotti's group south of the River Thames for the first time, to The Cut near Waterloo Station, an area the company hopes will receive a big boost from the completion of the Jubilee Line Tube extension. Chéz Gérard, which will have 10 London restaurants when its first City watering hole opens in July, also announced flat interim figures for the six months to December, hit by delays and cost over-runs on two refurbishment projects. Pre-tax profits in the half year slipped from £1.35m to £1.31m. Earnings per share were 5.1p (5.2p) and the interim dividend was increased from 0.9p to 1.0p. Like-for-like sales growth at the seven restaurants open throughout the period reached 7.4 per cent. Photograph: Andrew Buurman Investment column, page 21

Lira falls amid doubts over Italy and EMU

Yvette Cooper

The Italian lira and the Spanish peseta both fell heavily against the German mark yesterday, as the confidence of traders and investors in Italy's planned early membership of European Monetary Union (EMU) began to unravel.

Remarks made by the Belgian central bank governor Alfons Verplaetse were interpreted in the markets to mean that Italy should not join EMU in the first wave in 1999.

Meanwhile, Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi accused Germany of being less committed to EMU than Italy,

a remark which unsettled foreign exchange dealers.

As a result the mark shot up against the lira. This left the lira bouncing against its ERM central rate of 990 lire to the mark, before ending the day at 996.65 lire – a change of 9.4 on the day. The peseta fell in its wake to 84.77 against the mark. Rumours spread among dealers that the Bank of Italy was buying lire at 990, and that the Bank of Spain had intervened heavily to buy pesetas at 84.75 against the mark. Italian and Spanish bonds also fell.

The view that Spain and Italy will not be among the first wave of EMU members has been

strongly held in many quarters for some time. German public opinion is hostile to Italian membership, fearing Italy's history of political and financial instability will weaken the new euro. Meanwhile, European central bankers and politicians have been hinting for some time that Italy won't make the grade.

But until recently the financial markets seemed to be betting on Italy's ability to join EMU in the first wave, as Italian and German bond yields converged. Now traders admit the markets are extremely edgy, and the slightest remark – like Mr Verplaetse's comments yesterday – will trigger a reaction.

Gulf wins bid battle for Clyde Petroleum

Tom Stevenson
City Editor

Norwich Union's decision to accept Gulf Canada's 120p-a-share offer for its 8 per cent stake in Clyde Petroleum sealed the British oil explorer's fate yesterday. It was enough to secure 51.4 per cent of Clyde's shares for the hostile bidder in the latest of a run of extremely narrow bid victories.

The bid split Clyde's five largest shareholders, who between them controlled more than half the company's shares. As well as Norwich Union, Wittingtons, with 5 per cent, accepted the bid as did Capital Group of the US for some of its 10 per cent holding. Only Schroders (20 per cent) and the Prudential (4 per cent) among the big shareholders, stuck by Clyde's management.

JP Bryan, chief executive of Gulf, said yesterday: "We are of course most pleased with the outcome but remain respectful of the efforts by Clyde's management to do what they considered best for their shareholders."

Mr Bryan is expected to ask Roy Franklin, Clyde's well-regarded chief executive, to remain with the company. He said: "We look forward to working with the management and employees of Clyde to grow the business in the UK and around the world."

Gulf's narrow victory ends one of the most bitterly fought of recent hostile bids that saw the two sides locked in acrimonious struggle to persuade shareholders of the merits of their often arcane arguments about Clyde's real value.

Gulf initially offered 105p-a-share, putting a price tag of £432m on Clyde, but had to increase the offer to 120p, or £500m, to secure victory.

SmithKline chief profits by £1.8m

Magnus Grimmond

Jan Leschly, chief executive of SmithKline Beecham, is on course for another pay packet of around £1.8m this year after the drugs group unveiled profits of £1.55bn yesterday. Stripping out exceptional gains of £262m last time, the pre-tax figure represented growth of 14 per cent over 1995.

Company sources said this

put him in line for the sort of bonus he picked up in 1995, when he was awarded £928,000 on top of fees, salary and other benefits of £876,000. Mr Leschly attracted controversy two years ago when he was paid £2.4m, including around £800,000 for "relocation" from the UK to the US.

Although towards the lower end of expectations, the profit figures were well received by an-

alysts and SmithKline's shares added 13p to 894.5p yesterday. Mr Leschly said all the numbers were moving in the right direction. The group had filed 154 product approvals in 24 developing markets, "which suggests we can continue to grow in double digits", he said. The group had sold, restructured or closed 12 plants in the past year and there were another eight to go. Investment column, page 21

Affordable Healthcare
FREEPHONE QUOTING REF B11/DJ06
0500 6699 66
FOR YOUR PROTECTION CALLS WILL USUALLY BE RECORDED AND RANDOMLY MONITORED
With dental and optical cover
Legal & General

A CABLE & WIRELESS COMPANY

DON'T BE TAKEN IN BY BT'S PRICE CUTS.

(JUST COMPARE THEM TO MERCURY'S BUSINESS RATES.)

Even with their latest round of price cuts, BT can't catch us for dust. When it comes to competitively priced business rates, Mercury is way out in front. You can save up to 36% on a three minute long distance call in the UK. And up to 48% on a three minute call to the USA. (And that's compared to BT's new basic rate.) Call us, we're the people you need to speak to.

Call us now on FreeCall 0500 800 125 to find out how much Mercury could save your company. Alternatively return this coupon to: Mercury Communications, FREEPOST, MR 9564, PO Box 49, Wythenshawe, Manchester M22 5GE.

MR/MES/MES-MS INITIALS SURNAME
JOB/TITLE
COMPANY NAME
ADDRESS
TELEPHONE
POSTCODE

It doesn't cost anything to talk.
FreeCall 0500 800 125. 8940 04

International Services are based on GlobalLink package subject to a 4.2p minimum charge. The UK national call is based on a 12p package, calls subject to a 2p connection charge. All prices and savings compared against BT's basic rate (as of 19/2/97) £0.05 in peak weekdays, £0.03 per quarter applies. All prices quoted in VAT.

market report / shares

Data Bank		
FTSE 100	4332.3	-5.5
FTSE 250	4612.7	+6.2
FTSE 350	2139.3	-1.6
SEAQ VOLUME	884.6m shares,	
	49,129 bargains	
Gits Index	96.74	+0.44



Surge expected as strategists boost Footsie forecast

Taking Stock

As equities wilted and what could be the first crack appeared in the all-conquering financial sector two of the City's most closely followed strategists suggested the stock market was set to surge for the next two years.

Nicholas Knight and Allison Southey at Nomura upgraded this year's Footsie forecast from 4,400 points to 5,200, and next from 4,800 to 5,200. Until the Nomura upgrade Chase seemed to be the most optimistic forecaster with a 4,700 estimate. Mr Knight admitted he was "somewhat reluctant" to lift his predictions but felt the current scenario could point to an even stronger performance than the new targets.

Footsie started brightly enough but found the going increasingly tough and when New York reopened on a hesitant note it lost any semblance of enthusiasm, ending 5.5 points down at 4,332.3.

Some observers were unsettled by the reaction to Barclays' disappointing figures. Financials, with Barclays among the front runners, have led this year's market advance and fears have been expressed shares could fall back sharply if financials lose their way.

Barclays fell 70.5p to 1,129p. Although some banks moved ahead National Westminster was caught in the Barclays slipstream, falling 31p to 803.5p. Standard Chartered slipped 3p to 803.5p as some fretted about its figures.

Britannic, the insurer, jumped 66.5p to 870p as its orphan funds produced an expected dividend of 23p, an 82 per cent increase. A more progressive dividend policy will be based on the 23p platform.

But the Britannic performance did not bring joy to other insurers. Industry peer Prudential Corporation, where there is some confusion



MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

over its orphan estate, fell 8.5p to 564.5p.

Grey market trading started in the when-issued form of Hanson and Energy shares. Hanson ended at 300p and Energy at 533.5p. Ladbroke, said to be thinking about barging into the casino bid battle between London Clubs International and Capital Corporation, lost 4.5p to 232.5p.

London Clubs added 3p to 381.5p and Capital 10p to 196.5p.

Rolls-Royce firmed 1.5p to 221.5p as Lehman Brothers took a slightly more positive stance. Oils were mixed, with weakening crude prices eroding confidence. But Emerald

Energy, ahead of Friday's presentation, touched 8.25p, settling at 7.75p, up 1.5p. Clyde Petroleum, falling to the contested Gulf Canada strike, rose 2p to 118.5p.

Argos, the catalogue stores chain, was the best-performing blue chip. The shares rose 21.5p to 695p, said to be reflecting the likelihood of unchanged interest rates. Boots, however, dipped 13p to 688p with UBS said to be negative.

Stagecoach was again ruffled by its South West Trains fiasco, retreating 27.5p to 692.5p. Railtrack moved ahead a further 4.5p ahead of its investment presentation.

at one time down 52p as the bearish Greig Middleton circular appeared. The shares closed at 650p, off 29.5p. The stockbroker fears a cash call of up to £60m in the next six months. Its current "fair value" estimate is 229, rising to 600p at the start of 1999.

Plantation & General jumped 9p to 615p as famed fund manager Nick Roditi appeared with a possible offer around 58p. The market thinks Mr Roditi will use the company as a vehicle for his own interests or pump a business into it.

Williams Holdings, conducting one-to-one investment meetings with fund managers after a presentation on Monday, managed a 6p gain to 305p. Shandwick, the public relations group rocked by defections, fell 3.5p to 56.75p.

Centrica had another unwelcome day, falling a further 1.75p to 63.5p; BG gained 1.5p to 176p.

Whitbread was ruffled by an ABN Amro Hoare Govett "sell" note, falling 13p to 791.5p. Granada's Welcome Break and hotel sales left the shares down 1p at 928.5p. Relief that Asda's Welcome Break bid had been unsuccessful lifted the supermarket shares 1.25p to 116p.

Newcomer Infobank, a software house, touched 150p, settling at 144p. Placing price was 125p. Computer group CMG was again in demand. The shares jumped 40p to a 1,165p peak.

The day's profit warning appeared from video group VTR, down 20p to 55.5p.

Fortune Oil slipped 0.25p to 14.75p. A near 1.5 million share trade at 13.5p was recorded in late trading. The company has warned it plans a rights issue to help finance its joint aircraft refuelling services venture at 16 airports in southern China.

Haemocoil, the blood products company which has been under intense pressure and was forced to mount a £2m rescue rights issue, held at 4.5p. The chief executive, Brian Long, has displayed faith in the group's revival by buying 1 million shares, raising his interest to nearly 4 per cent. At one time Haemocoil seemed to be one of the more exciting health ventures. Its blood filter won US approval but problems over distributors retarded its progress. The group has switched to its own selling force, a move which is thought to be paying off.

Malays, the luxury car group embracing HR Owen, continues to attract Singapore multi-millionaire Ong Beng Seng. His interests picked up another 500,000 shares and now account for 25.28 per cent; the price is 12.5p.

Alcoholic Beverages

Company	Price	Change	Volume
Heavenly Breweries	10.00	0.00	100
Heavenly Breweries	10.00	0.00	100
Heavenly Breweries	10.00	0.00	100
Heavenly Breweries	10.00	0.00	100
Heavenly Breweries	10.00	0.00	100
Heavenly Breweries	10.00	0.00	100
Heavenly Breweries	10.00	0.00	100
Heavenly Breweries	10.00	0.00	100
Heavenly Breweries	10.00	0.00	100
Heavenly Breweries	10.00	0.00	100

Banks, Merchant

Company	Price	Change	Volume
Barclays	1129.00	-70.50	100
Nat Westminster	803.50	-31.00	100
Standard Chartered	803.50	-3.00	100
Prudential	564.50	-8.50	100
Britannic	870.00	+66.50	100
Lehman Brothers	221.50	+1.50	100

Banks, Retail

Company	Price	Change	Volume
HSBC	10.00	0.00	100
HSBC	10.00	0.00	100
HSBC	10.00	0.00	100
HSBC	10.00	0.00	100
HSBC	10.00	0.00	100
HSBC	10.00	0.00	100
HSBC	10.00	0.00	100
HSBC	10.00	0.00	100
HSBC	10.00	0.00	100
HSBC	10.00	0.00	100

Diversified Industrials

Company	Price	Change	Volume
Rolls Royce	221.50	+1.50	100
Lehman Brothers	221.50	+1.50	100
Lehman Brothers	221.50	+1.50	100
Lehman Brothers	221.50	+1.50	100
Lehman Brothers	221.50	+1.50	100
Lehman Brothers	221.50	+1.50	100
Lehman Brothers	221.50	+1.50	100
Lehman Brothers	221.50	+1.50	100
Lehman Brothers	221.50	+1.50	100
Lehman Brothers	221.50	+1.50	100

Breweries, Pubs

Company	Price	Change	Volume
Heavenly Breweries	10.00	0.00	100
Heavenly Breweries	10.00	0.00	100
Heavenly Breweries	10.00	0.00	100
Heavenly Breweries	10.00	0.00	100
Heavenly Breweries	10.00	0.00	100
Heavenly Breweries	10.00	0.00	100
Heavenly Breweries	10.00	0.00	100
Heavenly Breweries	10.00	0.00	100
Heavenly Breweries	10.00	0.00	100
Heavenly Breweries	10.00	0.00	100

Building/Construction

Company	Price	Change	Volume
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100

Electronics

Company	Price	Change	Volume
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100

Chemicals

Company	Price	Change	Volume
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100

Food & Drink

Company	Price	Change	Volume
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100

Food & Drink

Company	Price	Change	Volume
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100

Food & Drink

Company	Price	Change	Volume
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100

Food & Drink

Company	Price	Change	Volume
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100

Food & Drink

Company	Price	Change	Volume
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100

Food & Drink

Company	Price	Change	Volume
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100

Food & Drink

Company	Price	Change	Volume
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100

Food & Drink

Company	Price	Change	Volume
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100

Engineering Vehicles

Company	Price	Change	Volume
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100

Engineering Vehicles

Company	Price	Change	Volume
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100

Engineering Vehicles

Company	Price	Change	Volume
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100
Stagecoach	692.50	-27.50	100</

SmithKline survives patent loss

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Despite early prognostications of doom, SmithKline Beecham, the drugs giant, has prospered since Tagamet, its blockbuster anti-ulcer drug, went off patent in 1993. As Jan Leschly, the group's well-remembered chief executive, boasted yesterday, all the numbers are moving in the right direction.

The huge debts taken on in 1994 to buy first Diversified Pharmaceuticals (PBM), and then Sterling Winthrop, a US consumer products group, are being wound down, while earnings growth remains firmly in double figures. Pre-tax profits grew 16 per cent (excluding currency factors and exceptional items) to £1.55bn, while earnings per share jumped by an underlying 14 per cent.

The pound's strength could be a short-term drag, given the proportion of sales on the Continent and the US, but probably not one to lose sleep over. The 14 per cent profit growth to £442m notched up in the fourth quarter would have been a chunky 23 per cent without currency effects, but the group would only have shaved 5 per cent from last year's figures.

It is hard to gauge how successful SmithKline's acquisition record has been, given the opacity of the information on offer. Consumer healthcare trading profits rose a respectable 11 per cent to £372m, and the record on brand growth looks decent. The increased global reach provided by Sterling means that brands like Aquafresh and Panadol have done well, showing strong growth of 24 and 10 per cent respectively last year. That said, the fall in the first nine months of the over-the-counter version of Tagamet suggests SmithKline's abilities in extending the life of its drugs after patent expiry have taken a while to perfect, although competition has been intense.

The picture is fuzzier at Diversified. The group makes much of the fact that it now "manages" the healthcare requirements of 33 million lives, more than twice the 13.8 million at acquisition, and a drug spend of \$5.2bn (£3.2bn). But it refuses to reveal profit figures and in the absence of more concrete evidence, it is hard to avoid the conclusion that the same ends could have been achieved more cheaply by other means.

Acquisitions aside, the record remains good. The £580m rationalisation provision of two years ago has delivered gains of £125m and the core drugs business remains highly successful, growing profits 12 per cent to £1.18bn last year. Sales growth should continue in double digits and the group has no big patent expiries until the next century. Assuming Coreg wins US approval for con-

Sedgwick 'still in the game'

It is expectations about further industry restructuring that are keeping interest in the insurance brokers alive, rather than anything particularly exciting about their results.

Sedgwick yesterday unveiled pre-tax profits 5 per cent higher at £95.5m last year, in a marketplace where rates - as Willis Corroon remarked last week - are in decline everywhere.

"Our strategy is not based on false hopes for an improvement in the rating environment," said Sir Riley, Sedgwick's chief executive, in a suitably downbeat comment.

It was Sedgwick which a year ago suggested that consolidation was under way, and it certainly is not over yet. The merger of Aon and Alexander &

Alexander in the US to produce the world's largest broker came shortly after Aon itself had snapped up Bain Hogg in the UK from Inchcape. Jardine and Lloyd Thompson agreed to merge just before Christmas.

Given the international spread of Sedgwick, which is still in the world top three, what happens in the US is just as pertinent as rationalisation in the UK. Mr Riley said elliptically that we have now seen round one but Sedgwick was "still in the game".

He declined to hint whether he meant as bidder or target, but Sedgwick clearly prefers to be active in the international restructuring, though the share price might be giving a different signal, trading at a 10 per cent premium to Willis.

The results brought a 1p increase in the shares to 128p and were well within expectations. Earnings per share were down from 12.6p to 11.6p while the underlying dividend, excluding the foreign income dividend enhancement of 0.75p a share, is unchanged at 6.5p.

Sedgwick has successfully switched an increasing proportion of its income to fees from broking commissions over the last five years, as it develops the Sedgwick Noble Lowndes employee benefit consultancy.

There was one little twist in the results, in Sedgwick's purchase of the 50 per cent of River Thames Insurance that it does not already own. Though the cost was £14m, some saw this as a bargain price deal that could bring useful extra cash from the run-off insurance underwriting company. But the amounts are small, and nothing else emerged yesterday to justify putting Sedgwick on the buy list.

Chez Gérard branches out

Groupe Chez Gérard's latest acquisition, of Livebait, a fish restaurant near London's Waterloo station, takes the Soho Soho to Scotts and Bertorelli's group to nine restaurants and moves it out of the company's West End heartland. The opening of a site in Bishopsgate this summer will take the chain into double figures and add a City watering hole to its selection of upper-middle market restaurants.

The company, which floated in 1994, is undergoing a busy expansion phase which showed in half-year figures to December that disappointed the market with a small fall in pre-tax profits from £1.35m to £1.31m thanks to longer than expected, and more expensive than hoped for, refurbishment programmes at two restaurants. Earnings per share slipped from 5.2p to 5.1p, although the fall didn't prevent a rise in the well covered dividend from 0.9p to 1.0p.

The company warned at the last annual meeting that profits would be hit for about £200,000 by the over-runs on the refurbishments. In fact the damage was closer to £300,000, and the shares slipped 6p to 256.5p. Arguably it would have been possible to avoid putting 25 per cent of the chain effectively *hors de combat* for nearly half a year, but at least the sites are now up and running and the disruption is out of the way.

The rest of the business performed well in the half with like-for-like sales up more than 7 per cent as the capital's foodie boom continued. With 24 million visitors to London expected to spend £7.5bn this year, a quarter of it on food, trading should remain strong.

Whether that justifies the premium rating the shares trade on is a moot point. On the basis of full-year profits of £3.32m this year and just over £4m next time, the shares stand on a prospective price/earnings ratio of 20, falling to 16. The shares have moved sideways for a year or so and that's unlikely to change.

A husband who's really worth his weight in gold

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Keeping it in the family: Karen Brady and husband Paul Peschisolido with baby Sophia. Photograph: News Team

uniform when he started as a City messenger 40 years ago? "Uniform? We were lucky to get a job. But I still enjoy the job."

Associated British Ports Holdings has gone outside the company for the first time since it was privatised in 1983 to appoint a new managing director for its ports division, Andrew Smith.

The present incumbent, Alastair Channing, is retiring after around 20 years with the company. ABP runs around 23 per cent of the UK's ports.

Sir Keith Stuart, chairman of ABP Holdings, hints that Mr Smith's international experience with P&O Containers and Inchcape in the Middle East and Far East could prove invaluable if ABP decides to expand overseas. "This is important, since there could be scope for us to use our port management expertise overseas if the opportunities arise."

Mr Smith, 46, was born in Glasgow and educated at Southampton University. His first job was as a deck officer, or cadet, on Clan Line, a merchant shipping line that plied its trade between the UK and South Africa.

He was managing director of Redland's bricks division from 1992 until last year. Now he's swapped bricks for his first love, ships.

As the City holds its breath to see whether NatWest Markets will report better results next Tuesday than the stinker from BZW yesterday, the former announces yet another high-paying appointment. NWM has poached David Buchen from Citibank in New York to be managing director of its global proprietary trading in foreign exchange.

Mr Buchen will be based in the US and will report to Howard Kurz, who was appointed last August as a managing director and head of global foreign exchange.

Using typically transatlantic bismarck, Mr Kurz welcomed Mr Buchen's appointment: "This is a key hire for NatWest Markets in terms of our ability to leverage further our research and knowledge base." The City will be thinking more about costs bases next week, I think.

John Gummer, Environment Secretary and Minister for London, launched the first strategic planning guidance for the River Thames yesterday at Walbrook Wharf in the City. The wharf transports 59,000 tonnes of waste down the river, and Mr Gummer saw it in operation, including the arrival of a tug and the loading of a barge. Unfortunately he didn't fall in.

John Willcock

IN BRIEF

• Several nominated advisers to companies listed on the junior AIM market faced public censure or being struck off unless standards of service to clients improved, the Stock Exchange warned. Reviewing the performance of 51 nominated advisers active on AIM, the Exchange said it had found "one or two cases" where business practices were "sufficiently unsatisfactory to warrant disciplinary action". "In these cases further investigations and disciplinary procedures are being pursued," the report continued. The Exchange declined to name names.

• Labour's shadow economic secretary, Mike O'Brien, yesterday called on the Government to ensure Parliamentary time was given to the Building Societies Bill, which aims to give societies greater powers and gives limited protection against hostile predators. Mr O'Brien claimed that unless time was given this week, the Bill would not be able to complete its stages before the general election. His call was backed by Nationwide building society, whose chief executive, Brian Davis, said unless the Bill became law other societies would come under pressure to demutualise.

• The Bank of England wants senior managers of banks it supervises to take more formal responsibility for internal controls, a key lesson from the collapse of Barings. In a consultation paper published yesterday the Bank also said it wanted to meet directly with banks' auditors. The Bank already holds meetings with reporting accountants but these are also attended by the bank which has been audited. The Bank expects lively debate on the paper and has called for comments by 18 April.

• Avon Rubber has sold its tyre business based in Melksham to an Ohio-based company, Cooper Tire & Rubber, for \$110.4m (£69m), giving Cooper its first overseas tyre factory. Cooper Tire's acquisition includes the land and plant in Melksham, distribution companies in France, Germany and Switzerland, and the right to use the Avon name on tyres, inner tubes and retreading materials. The deal will be completed within five weeks.

• HF Ahmanson & Co, the largest Savings & Loan group in the US, launched a hostile \$6bn (£3.75bn) bid for Great Western Financial Corporation yesterday. Ahmanson then launched legal action to stop its target from putting up takeover defenses. Ahmanson filed a lawsuit yesterday morning at Delaware Chancery Court, a state court where most takeover fights are waged. Earlier yesterday, Ahmanson offered stock valued at \$42.53 for Great Western's shares. The deal would create an S&L, similar to a British building society, with \$93bn in assets and 600 branches.

• The US and the UK resumed "open skies" talks yesterday, a State Department spokeswoman said. The talks are scheduled to continue until Thursday. The US has made approval of the proposed alliance between American Airlines and British Airways conditional on the US and UK reaching an "open skies" agreement on liberalising air traffic between the two countries.

• Colt Telecom, the UK-based business telephony group which specialises in business customers, yesterday reported a 281 per cent surge in its turnover to £35m for last year as its network became established. Colt recently floated part of its shares on the same established. Colt recently floated part of its shares on the same established. Colt recently floated part of its shares on the same established. Colt recently floated part of its shares on the same established.

Company Results				
	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Barings (P)	(-)	2,360m (2,080m)	104.2p (83.0p)	31.5p (29p)
Group 1 (P)	2,360m (2,080m)	1,310m (1,350m)	5.1p (5.2p)	1p (0.5p)
Group 2 (P)	2,360m (2,080m)	1,310m (1,350m)	5.1p (5.2p)	1p (0.5p)
John Hoggan (P)	2,360m (2,080m)	1,310m (1,350m)	5.1p (5.2p)	1p (0.5p)
John Hoggan (P)	2,360m (2,080m)	1,310m (1,350m)	5.1p (5.2p)	1p (0.5p)
John Hoggan (P)	2,360m (2,080m)	1,310m (1,350m)	5.1p (5.2p)	1p (0.5p)
John Hoggan (P)	2,360m (2,080m)	1,310m (1,350m)	5.1p (5.2p)	1p (0.5p)
John Hoggan (P)	2,360m (2,080m)	1,310m (1,350m)	5.1p (5.2p)	1p (0.5p)
John Hoggan (P)	2,360m (2,080m)	1,310m (1,350m)	5.1p (5.2p)	1p (0.5p)
John Hoggan (P)	2,360m (2,080m)	1,310m (1,350m)	5.1p (5.2p)	1p (0.5p)



Restructuring: Shandwick's founder Peter Gummer

Shandwick shares suffer as directors defect to set up rival

Tom Stevenson
City Editor

Shares in Shandwick International, the public relations group, fell as much as 12 per cent yesterday after five of its most senior staff announced their intention to set up a rival agency. The defectors include four of the 13 strong board of UK financial PR subsidiary, Shandwick Consultants, including its chief executive Chris Matthews.

There was a recovery later in the day after it emerged that the split was not the bust-up that many feared after the story leaked in the morning. Only Mr Matthews has left with immediate effect, with his colleagues staying until at least the end of the results season and one remaining with Shandwick until

the completion of the planned flotation of the Halifax, on which it is advising. The shares closed 3.5p lower at 56.75p.

The new agency, to be named the Hogarth Partnership after the painter whose Chiswick house is overlooked by Mr Matthews' flat, will be based near Tower Bridge. The launch is planned for 1 April - coincidentally the same day that Shandwick, founded by Peter Gummer, brother of environment minister John, opened for business. Its five directors will share about 80 per cent of the company's equity in proportions determined by their seniority at Shandwick.

Although the five have contractual obligations not to work for Shandwick clients or employ its staff for 12 months, it is expected that several of their

clients will move across to Hogarth. One of the five described their contracts yesterday as "a grey area" and it is widely seen as a difficult area for people businesses to police.

At Shandwick, the departures have prompted a restructuring of the business into three units, Shandwick Financial, to be headed by former journalist John Reynolds, Shandwick Public Affairs and Shandwick Corporate. The three businesses will be overseen by Colin Trusler, managing director of Shandwick's UK operations.

It emerged yesterday that it had been an open secret within Shandwick for many months that Mr Matthews was looking to leave the group. He had been instrumental in Shandwick's recovery from heavy losses in the early 1990s when its shares

fell as low as 3.75p but he was not engaged in client work and felt his job at the company had been completed.

Last month Shandwick announced a 20 per cent rise in underlying profits to £9.2m, saying it had benefited from increasing demand from global clients such as Digital and Mastercard for a world-wide one-stop service. Shandwick believes it is the world's largest independent public relations firm, with 90 offices in 20 markets.

The defection by the senior executives, who include John Olsen, James Longfield, Nicholas Denton and Rachel Hirst, is thought to be the largest breakdown since the late 1980s when several directors broke away from Streets Financial to set up Citigate Communications. Comment, page 19

Deutsche shrugs off Morgan losses

Imre Karacs
Born

Deutsche Bank shook off losses at its City investment house by posting record gains for 1996, but debt provisions ate into profit and froze dividends at last year's level.

Operating profit, at DM5.8bn (£2.1bn), was up by 37 per cent, reflecting good performance from the bank's global investment division.

Net profit, however, increased only by 4.8 per cent to DM2.2bn, after a big but unspecified hike in risk provisions.

Although Germany's largest bank did not provide a breakdown of liabilities, the largest item is believed to be Deutsche Morgan Grenfell. Last September Deutsche was forced to pump £180m into three unit trusts operated by its British subsidiary, and analysts estimate that another £200m will have to be dispatched from Frankfurt to the City to compensate investors.

Deutsche also lost DM200m in the bail-out of the engineering group Klockner-Humboldt-Deutz, and suffered when two other big industrial concerns cancelled dividends.

But despite the débâcle at Morgan Grenfell, attributed in Frankfurt to weak British management, the bank's decision to

increase its exposure in the global financial markets appears to have been vindicated. Deutsche was at pains to stress yesterday that it was primarily its investment banking division that contributed to the 23 per cent rise in total assets to DM88bn.

Loan volume also rose by 8.2 per cent to DM410bn, while customer deposits grew by 25 per cent to DM375bn. Deutsche's share price hit a three-year peak after yesterday's announcement, and analysts predicted a steady climb in the expectation that the problems in London have been brought under control.

In comparison with other German banks, however, Deutsche's performance has been spectacular. Commerzbank earlier posted a 22 per cent rise in net profits, while the country's second largest bank, Dresdner, is expected to report tomorrow a 30 per cent leap in earnings.

Bayrische Vereinsbank, in which Deutsche has a 5.2 per cent stake, announced an increase in dividends yesterday after an 18 per cent jump in operating profits.

The windfall of Vereinsbank's success will doubtless please Deutsche bosses, but it also highlights the urgent need to catch up with the rest of the sector.

Reshuffle to let Peptide target US

Magnus Grimmond

Peptide Therapeutics, the biotechnology group, is reshuffling its top management team just 15 months after coming to the market. John Brown, a former stockbroker, is moving up from finance director to become chief executive, replacing Alan Goodman, who becomes deputy chairman with a remit to develop the group's North American business. Gordon Cameron, who arrived from merchant bankers NM Rothschild last year, is to become finance director and Nick Higgins moves over from licensing director to commercial director.

Mr Brown described the changes as a realignment of roles. "The largest concentration of our customers are in the US... and we have found that telephone conferences have not been a substitute for having someone on the ground."

Mr Goodman would be targeting "any drug company with a market capitalisation of over \$1bn" to sell the group's technology to, Mr Brown said. "He is good at doing deals - that is what turns him on."

The news came as Peptide announced losses for the year to December had grown from £3.61m to £4.59m. But the figures were in line with market ex-

pectations and the shares added 2p to 335p yesterday.

The group said its net cash and liquid resources had fallen from £27m to £20.6m during the 12 months, but had since risen to £27.4m after recent alliances with Medeva and SmithKline Beecham. The cash "burn" was on target at £5.4m last year. Research and development expenditure came in at £5m, while capital expenditure was £2m. The group has leased and equipped a further 3,500 square feet of laboratory space in the Cambridge Science Park and has consolidated all operations on one site. Mr Brown said they had "no immediate plans" to raise more money.

The group's main near-term prospect is an allergy vaccine with general applicability, including food allergies, bee stings, juvenile asthma and hay fever. This product, at the centre of the deal with SmithKline, could be attacking a £5bn market by the turn of the century.

But analysts are most excited about Peptide's technology base. The group's RAPID combinatorial chemistry product provides a new way of developing protease inhibitors, used in the battle against AIDS, but also a factor in many other diseases. Glaxo Wellcome is thought to be interested in the technology.

Renewing your home insurance in February or March?

If you are 50 or over, you could save with Saga - call us NOW



SAGA Home Insurance can offer you genuine savings over other policies, while giving you cover that fully protects your home and possessions.

The Saga Price Promise
If you find another comparable policy at a lower price within 2 months of taking out SAGA Home Insurance, we will refund you the difference.

SAGA
Services Ltd

Insurance cover is comprehensive and low cost
Discounts for home security
Free pen with your quotation

Call us today
For your free no obligation quote simply call us on the number below. We will be pleased to answer any questions you have on SAGA Home Insurance.

0800 414 525
Quoting reference ID2708

Saga Services Ltd would like to send you information about other Saga products and services and may pass on your details to other Saga companies for this purpose.

sport

Hot new chapter in the adventures of Rosie



KEITH ELLIOTT

AT LARGE

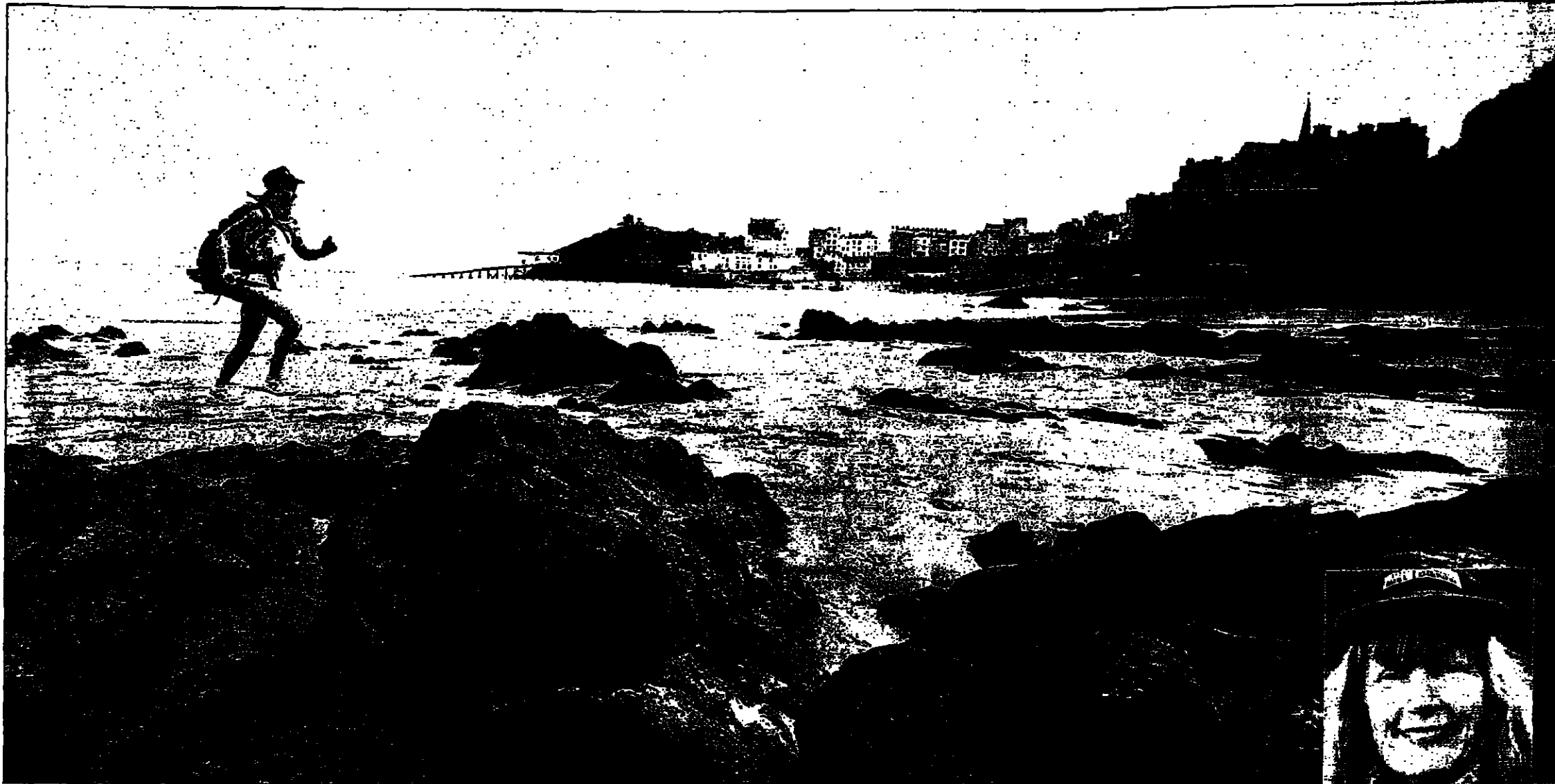
When your grandmother pushes you out of the house at 12 years old with a packet of biscuits and a pony, telling you to come back a couple of days later when you've got something interesting to write about, it is probable you will grow up having a slightly unusual view of life.

Character-forming episodes like this have formed a large part of Rosie Swale's life. She has sailed with a young family to Australia and back in a 30ft catamaran, rounded Cape Horn on the way, crossed the Atlantic single-handed in a 17ft plywood cutter that was found in a cowshed; travelled the length of Chile (3,500 miles) with two horses and walked alone across Albania (which by all accounts is like 13th century feudal England).

Is it any wonder that along the way there has been some less than savoury publicity (sharing a home with a sex-change merchant seaman, for example)? And is it any wonder that at 50, she is eschewing middle-aged pursuits like jam-making, taking fuchsia cuttings and collecting glass animals, and instead planning to run in the world's toughest race?

The *Marathon des Sables* lasts six days and covers 240 kilometres of the Sahara Desert in temperatures averaging 120°F. Chris Lawrence, who organises the British end of the race, says: "We took the temperature in a sand dune last year and it was 61°C [142°F]."

It's not just the heat. The terrain varies between rock and sand, though it's mostly lots of the latter, with plenty of dunes 200ft high. Running on desert sand is described as "like running through spiteful treacle". It gets everywhere, grates away



Rosie Swale acclimatises for the heat and toil of the Sahara Desert in the friendlier surroundings of the beaches of Tenby

Photographs: Robert Hallam

at your skin and turns your feet and shins into huge blisters.

The shortest stretch is 18km. But on the fourth day, runners have to cover nearly 80km, and finish in the dark. They must carry all their personal belongings, including food, cooking utensils and tents in a rucksack with a 15kg weight limit. Not too much room for three-course meals there. The organisers generously supply water – but there's a limit to how much you are allowed. Throw in sundry hazards such as snakes and scorpions, and you start to see why the race, which starts on 5 April, is billed as being tougher than an SAS entrance exam.

What is less obvious is why about 350 people, with 40 from the UK, are willing to pay £1,900 for such suffering and the chance to win a mere £130,000 (about £3,250). Lawrence, who runs a travel agency called The Best of Morocco, says: "You have to be potentially certifiable to do this. Winning is incidental. It's for someone who wants to do something a little crazy." Like the woman who entered in a floral dress and high-heeled shoes. She lasted a day.

Swale, however, is well aware of the hazards. She has been running 70 miles a week along the beach and cliff paths around Tenby, where she lives in a small flat

with her photographer husband, Chris. "I haven't been able to get any training in high temperatures but I'm used to running with the rucksack and I feel ready for the race. I want to get round – and not as a hobbler."

There seems little chance of that. It's easy to see why Swale says: "I have never liked just to arrive somewhere." The influences of her extraordinary childhood still show in her approach to life. Born in Switzerland, she was adopted because her mother couldn't look after her. The wife of a village postman cared for her until her Anglo-Irish grandmother arrived out of the blue and took her back to rural

Ireland. Granny had strange views on education, and little Rosie didn't go to school until she was 13. "I really only learnt maths when I had to learn astronomy for the Atlantic crossing," she says.

But her grandmother had more enlightened views about English, even if her teaching approach was somewhat idiosyncratic. It even influenced Rosie at 10, when she sent a love story to a women's magazine and had it rejected because she didn't have enough experience.

She trained as a local newspaper reporter, and still writes occasional articles, though most of her writing now is books. She

has done five, though she admits that the early ones, written in the days when she was the darling of the tabloids, are not very good. There is another in the pipeline, though the planned one on Libya came to naught when she and her husband were deported twice. "I wanted to do a traveller's view of the country but we kept being shown round tractor factories."

Walking was once her preferred mode of exploring, now it is running, which suits her restless spirit. She claims that she is happy, settled at last in her home life and needing nothing, but she can't sit still. In the quiet seafaring hotel where

we meet, she is up and down like a shop steward at a strike meeting.

Others in the room listen in fascination. It's not just that they are sharing a room with a striking woman decked out for a trans-Saharan run with a rucksack full of potatoes, who is telling stories about having a mountain lion in her tent in Chile. She also has a voice that would cut through a Force 8 in mid-Atlantic. She is very popular on the lecture circuit, probably because they save on hiring a microphone.

It's impossible not to like her. She has the enthusiasm of a puppy, whether talking about

her family (horribly normal) or the charity she is running for – SPANA, a veterinary charity that recognises animals as an essential part of North African and Middle Eastern families' lives. She is approaching the Sahara race (still open for entries if you're not doing anything in April) with the excitement of a child on Christmas Eve. "When I sailed round the world, I thought that was it. Now I realise it was only the beginning." And granny would certainly have approved.



INDEPENDENT FANTASY FOOTBALL

LATEST RESULTS AND TOP 50 TEAMS

TOP FIFTY LEAGUE TABLE

CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 9 FEBRUARY

POS	NAME	TEAM	POINTS
1	MR PETER FRANKENTAL	JOSI MARTI	717
2	MR PETER FRANKENTAL	JOSI MARTI	692
2	MR ASHLEY BRETTE	RELEGATION 12	692
5	MR GARY HAWKINS	THE DOOR MAT	691
6	MR GARFIELD MCCULLEN	GARFIELD BOYS SECOND	691
6	MR WILLIAM BARR	THE DOOR MAT	691
7	MR SIMON LIU	DEFENCE ROVERS	647
8	MR GRAHAM LONGSTON	THE DOOR MAT	647
9	MR S KING	CRUISING ALEXANDRA	643
10	MR SIMON SHARPLE	OUT OF MIND	638
10	MR RICK YAP	OUT OF MIND	638
12	MR MICHAEL GREENFIELD	THE DOOR MAT	638
13	MR NICK KNIGHT	KNIGHT'S NANA HEAD	637
13	MR JOHN COX	THE DOOR MAT	637
13	MR GOWIN	NORWOOD	637
16	MR PAUL COOPER	THE DOOR MAT	636
17	DR STEPHEN MATTHEWS	I IMPERIAL BATES	635
17	MR PHILIP	THE DOOR MAT	635
17	MR PAUL MATTHEW	THE DOOR MAT	635
20	MR MICHAEL GREGGSON	LITTLE UNIS	627
22	MR DARREN NICHOLAS	THE DOOR MAT	627
22	MR ADAM HOGG	BLAGGY HOGG	626
22	MR A MORGAN	LOCK STOKES	626
25	MR R RENICK	WILD ROVERS	624
25	MR SEAN BROOKMAN	THE DOOR MAT	624
27	MR JONATHAN FURNISS	REDSTAR CARDIFF	622
28	MR KEITH HOBBS	THE DOOR MAT	621
28	MR PAUL RICHARDSON	CINCINATI STORM	621
30	MR DAVID ASHTON	THE DOOR MAT	620
30	MR R PRINGLE	DEEDDALE VILLA 7	620
30	MR LAN GRIFFIN	THE DOOR MAT	620
30	MR JOE GOODING	TEAM SQUIDLIPS	620
30	MR E J HETHERINGTON	THE DOOR MAT	620
35	MR J JOLLY	THE DOOR MAT	619
35	MR ANDREW SWANBY	THE DOOR MAT	619
36	MR JONATHAN MCCROSSIN	WASH TOP ARMY	618
36	MR ANTHONY CROW	THE DOOR MAT	618
36	MR K B MALCOLM	INTER MALCOLM	618
40	MR PAUL HARRISON	WAGGERS WAGGERS	617
40	MR M CROSLAND	OSNEY C LYONS	617
40	MR PAUL CURRAN	NO DEBARS	617
40	MR D R KENNEDY	HAMMERS UNITED	617
44	MR C HARTY	THE DOOR MAT	616
44	MR C H DOWN	DEALS RESERVES	616
44	MR RARRY LEE	THE DOOR MAT	616
47	MR PETER SHERLOCK	LINCOLN ST GILES	615
47	MR DAVID RAE	SALFORD ROVERS	615
47	MR STEVEN HART	KEYS COWBOYS	615
47	MR ANDREW CHICKEN	ALIVE MEN FROM UNCLE	615

THE INDEPENDENT INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

Today we publish the latest results in our Independent Fantasy Football game, supported by Philips Energy Saver Light Bulbs.

The Team Market and Scores table published below, shows four scores. The Week 27 (Wk 27) column lists all points scored in Premiership matches played between Monday 10 February - Sunday 16 February inclusive. Column B lists all points scored before the transfer period. Column A lists all points scored after the transfer period. The Overall (Ov) column lists the total amount of points scored in all matches played from Saturday 17 August - Sunday 16 February. Also published today is the Top 50 League table (see left). It lists the overall top scoring Independent Fantasy Football managers and their teams for matches

played between Saturday 17 August - Sunday 9 February. However the scores remain unchanged due to the lack of Premiership games between Monday 3 and Sunday 9 February.

Results will be published every Wednesday in The Independent for all games played from the previous Monday to Sunday inclusive. They will also

SCORING SYSTEM

4 points for a goal ■ 4 points for a goalkeeper/defender clean sheet ■ 3 points for a successful assist ■ 1 point when a player is selected and plays ■ 1 point for a winning goal ■ 3 points for a manager win, 1 point for a draw ■ Lose 1 point for a yellow card ■ Lose 3 points for a red card

appear the following Sunday, in the Independent on Sunday. The overall Top 50 League table will be printed every Wednesday and again on Sunday. Terms and conditions as previously published

PRIZES

The overall winner at the end of the season will be the entrant who has accrued more points than any other Independent Fantasy Football team in that time. Win the ultimate prize - a trip to the 1998 World Cup in France. The winner, plus companion, will see all the action of a quarter-final and a semi-final of their choice, plus the final. In addition, the highest scoring team each month will win a pair of tickets to one of England's World Cup qualifying games at Wembley.

TEAM MARKET AND SCORES

OVERALL SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 16 FEBRUARY; WEEK 27 SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 10 FEBRUARY - 16 FEBRUARY

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	POINTS	VALUE	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	POINTS	VALUE	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	POINTS	VALUE	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	POINTS	VALUE
W27	B	A	Ov	(12w)	W27	B	A	Ov	(12w)	W27	B	A	Ov	(12w)	W27	B	A	Ov	(12w)
GOALKEEPERS																			
300	Seaman	ARS	0	38	477	Raddock	LIV	0	2	649	Stanton	DER	0	15	836	Hughes	CHE	0	19
301	Shaw	ARS	0	5	478	Scot	LIV	0	2	650	Stanton	DER	0	15	837	Spencer	CHE	0	19
302	Flowers	BLA	0	19	479	Harries	LIV	0	0	651	Stanton	DER	0	15	838	Spencer	CHE	0	19
303	Khan	CHE	0	21	480	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	652	Stanton	DER	0	15	839	Spencer	CHE	0	19
304	Flowers	BLA	0	19	481	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	653	Stanton	DER	0	15	840	Spencer	CHE	0	19
305	Khan	CHE	0	21	482	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	654	Stanton	DER	0	15	841	Spencer	CHE	0	19
306	Khan	CHE	0	21	483	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	655	Stanton	DER	0	15	842	Spencer	CHE	0	19
307	Khan	CHE	0	21	484	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	656	Stanton	DER	0	15	843	Spencer	CHE	0	19
308	Khan	CHE	0	21	485	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	657	Stanton	DER	0	15	844	Spencer	CHE	0	19
309	Khan	CHE	0	21	486	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	658	Stanton	DER	0	15	845	Spencer	CHE	0	19
310	Khan	CHE	0	21	487	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	659	Stanton	DER	0	15	846	Spencer	CHE	0	19
311	Khan	CHE	0	21	488	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	660	Stanton	DER	0	15	847	Spencer	CHE	0	19
312	Khan	CHE	0	21	489	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	661	Stanton	DER	0	15	848	Spencer	CHE	0	19
313	Khan	CHE	0	21	490	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	662	Stanton	DER	0	15	849	Spencer	CHE	0	19
314	Khan	CHE	0	21	491	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	663	Stanton	DER	0	15	850	Spencer	CHE	0	19
315	Khan	CHE	0	21	492	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	664	Stanton	DER	0	15	851	Spencer	CHE	0	19
316	Khan	CHE	0	21	493	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	665	Stanton	DER	0	15	852	Spencer	CHE	0	19
317	Khan	CHE	0	21	494	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	666	Stanton	DER	0	15	853	Spencer	CHE	0	19
318	Khan	CHE	0	21	495	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	667	Stanton	DER	0	15	854	Spencer	CHE	0	19
319	Khan	CHE	0	21	496	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	668	Stanton	DER	0	15	855	Spencer	CHE	0	19
320	Khan	CHE	0	21	497	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	669	Stanton	DER	0	15	856	Spencer	CHE	0	19
321	Khan	CHE	0	21	498	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	670	Stanton	DER	0	15	857	Spencer	CHE	0	19
322	Khan	CHE	0	21	499	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	671	Stanton	DER	0	15	858	Spencer	CHE	0	19
323	Khan	CHE	0	21	500	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	672	Stanton	DER	0	15	859	Spencer	CHE	0	19
324	Khan	CHE	0	21	501	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	673	Stanton	DER	0	15	860	Spencer	CHE	0	19
325	Khan	CHE	0	21	502	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	674	Stanton	DER	0	15	861	Spencer	CHE	0	19
326	Khan	CHE	0	21	503	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	675	Stanton	DER	0	15	862	Spencer	CHE	0	19
327	Khan	CHE	0	21	504	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	676	Stanton	DER	0	15	863	Spencer	CHE	0	19
328	Khan	CHE	0	21	505	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	677	Stanton	DER	0	15	864	Spencer	CHE	0	19
329	Khan	CHE	0	21	506	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	678	Stanton	DER	0	15	865	Spencer	CHE	0	19
330	Khan	CHE	0	21	507	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	679	Stanton	DER	0	15	866	Spencer	CHE	0	19
331	Khan	CHE	0	21	508	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	680	Stanton	DER	0	15	867	Spencer	CHE	0	19
332	Khan	CHE	0	21	509	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	681	Stanton	DER	0	15	868	Spencer	CHE	0	19
333	Khan	CHE	0	21	510	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	682	Stanton	DER	0	15	869	Spencer	CHE	0	19
334	Khan	CHE	0	21	511	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	683	Stanton	DER	0	15	870	Spencer	CHE	0	19
335	Khan	CHE	0	21	512	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	684	Stanton	DER	0	15	871	Spencer	CHE	0	19
336	Khan	CHE	0	21	513	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	685	Stanton	DER	0	15	872	Spencer	CHE	0	19
337	Khan	CHE	0	21	514	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	686	Stanton	DER	0	15	873	Spencer	CHE	0	19
338	Khan	CHE	0	21	515	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	687	Stanton	DER	0	15	874	Spencer	CHE	0	19
339	Khan	CHE	0	21	516	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	688	Stanton	DER	0	15	875	Spencer	CHE	0	19
340	Khan	CHE	0	21	517	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	689	Stanton	DER	0	15	876	Spencer	CHE	0	19
341	Khan	CHE	0	21	518	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	690	Stanton	DER	0	15	877	Spencer	CHE	0	19
342	Khan	CHE	0	21	519	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	691	Stanton	DER	0	15	878	Spencer	CHE	0	19
343	Khan	CHE	0	21	520	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	692	Stanton	DER	0	15	879	Spencer	CHE	0	19
344	Khan	CHE	0	21	521	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	693	Stanton	DER	0	15	880	Spencer	CHE	0	19
345	Khan	CHE	0	21	522	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	694	Stanton	DER	0	15	881	Spencer	CHE	0	19
346	Khan	CHE	0	21	523	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	695	Stanton	DER	0	15	882	Spencer	CHE	0	19
347	Khan	CHE	0	21	524	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	696	Stanton	DER	0	15	883	Spencer	CHE	0	19
348	Khan	CHE	0	21	525	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	697	Stanton	DER	0	15	884	Spencer	CHE	0	19
349	Khan	CHE	0	21	526	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	698	Stanton	DER	0	15	885	Spencer	CHE	0	19
350	Khan	CHE	0	21	527	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	699	Stanton	DER	0	15	886	Spencer	CHE	0	19
351	Khan	CHE	0	21	528	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	700	Stanton	DER	0	15	887	Spencer	CHE	0	19
352	Khan	CHE	0	21	529	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	701	Stanton	DER	0	15	888	Spencer	CHE	0	19
353	Khan	CHE	0	21	530	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	702	Stanton	DER	0	15	889	Spencer	CHE	0	19
354	Khan	CHE	0	21	531	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	703	Stanton	DER	0	15	890	Spencer	CHE	0	19
355	Khan	CHE	0	21	532	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	704	Stanton	DER	0	15	891	Spencer	CHE	0	19
356	Khan	CHE	0	21	533	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	705	Stanton	DER	0	15	892	Spencer	CHE	0	19
357	Khan	CHE	0	21	534	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	706	Stanton	DER	0	15	893	Spencer	CHE	0	19
358	Khan	CHE	0	21	535	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	707	Stanton	DER	0	15	894	Spencer	CHE	0	19
359	Khan	CHE	0	21	536	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	708	Stanton	DER	0	15	895	Spencer	CHE	0	19
360	Khan	CHE	0	21	537	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	709	Stanton	DER	0	15	896	Spencer	CHE	0	19
361	Khan	CHE	0	21	538	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	710	Stanton	DER	0	15	897	Spencer	CHE	0	19
362	Khan	CHE	0	21	539	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	711	Stanton	DER	0	15	898	Spencer	CHE	0	19
363	Khan	CHE	0	21	540	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	712	Stanton	DER	0	15	899	Spencer	CHE	0	19
364	Khan	CHE	0	21	541	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	713	Stanton	DER	0	15	900	Spencer	CHE	0	19
365	Khan	CHE	0	21	542	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	714	Stanton	DER	0	15	901	Spencer	CHE	0	19
366	Khan	CHE	0	21	543	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	715	Stanton	DER	0	15	902	Spencer	CHE	0	19
367	Khan	CHE	0	21	544	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	716	Stanton	DER	0	15	903	Spencer	CHE	0	19
368	Khan	CHE	0	21	545	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	717	Stanton	DER	0	15	904	Spencer	CHE	0	19
369	Khan	CHE	0	21	546	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	718	Stanton	DER	0	15	905	Spencer	CHE	0	19
370	Khan	CHE	0	21	547	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	719	Stanton	DER	0	15	906	Spencer	CHE	0	19
371	Khan	CHE	0	21	548	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	720	Stanton	DER	0	15	907	Spencer	CHE	0	19
372	Khan	CHE	0	21	549	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	721	Stanton	DER	0	15	908	Spencer	CHE	0	19
373	Khan	CHE	0	21	550	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	722	Stanton	DER	0	15	909	Spencer	CHE	0	19
374	Khan	CHE	0	21	551	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	723	Stanton	DER	0	15	910	Spencer	CHE	0	19
375	Khan	CHE	0	21	552	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	724	Stanton	DER	0	15	911	Spencer	CHE	0	19
376	Khan	CHE	0	21	553	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	725	Stanton	DER	0	15	912	Spencer	CHE	0	19
377	Khan	CHE	0	21	554	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	726	Stanton	DER	0	15	913	Spencer	CHE	0	19
378	Khan	CHE	0	21	555	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	727	Stanton	DER	0	15	914	Spencer	CHE	0	19
379	Khan	CHE	0	21	556	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	728	Stanton	DER	0	15	915	Spencer	CHE	0	19
380	Khan	CHE	0	21	557	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	729	Stanton	DER	0	15	916	Spencer	CHE	0	19
381	Khan	CHE	0	21	558	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	730	Stanton	DER	0	15	917	Spencer	CHE	0	19
382	Khan	CHE	0	21	559	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	731	Stanton	DER	0	15	918	Spencer	CHE	0	19
383	Khan	CHE	0	21	560	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	732	Stanton	DER	0	15	919	Spencer	CHE	0	19
384	Khan	CHE	0	21	561	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	733	Stanton	DER	0	15	920	Spencer	CHE	0	19
385	Khan	CHE	0	21	562	Neville (G)	MU	0	0	734	Stanton	DER	0	15	921	Spencer	CHE	0	19
386	Khan	CHE	0	21	563	Neville (G)	MU	0	0										

sport

of Ros

Aiming to fit a square pig into a round hole

When trainers discuss their prospects for the Cheltenham Festival, it is sometimes impossible to dispel images of flying pigs. Jessica Harrington, however, offers a refreshing alternative: square ones.

Harrington prepares Space Trucker, one of Ireland's principal hopes for the Champion Hurdle on 11 March, who acquired his odd name from a film, as yet unreleased, with which his owner was involved. "Dennis Hopper's in it," the trainer says, "it's science fiction, I think, something to do with moving square pigs around in space."

As racing trivia goes, this could be the finest nugget to be unearthed all year. All the more so if the equine Space Trucker can do the business back on terra firma next month, and indeed, as far as he is concerned, it is very much a case of the firm's better.

Good ground or faster is essential if Harrington's runner is to become the first Irish champion hurdler since Dawn Run. Recent rain at Cheltenham - not to mention the track's apparent eagerness to turn on the taps - probably explains his recent, fog in the ante-post market, from as low as 5-1 out to 10-1.

It may also be a case of unfamiliar breeding contempt, since Jessica Harrington is not the most familiar of Ireland's

trainers where British punters are concerned. Her pedigree, however, is impeccable. Her father and brother both prepared horses, while Harrington herself was a three-day event rider of European championship class.

It is barely 10 years since she took over the training permit at her husband's stud-cum-stable near the Curragh, and less than seven since the upgrade to a full licence, but the victories to date include the Galway Hurdle with Oh So Grumpy, who later won good chases at Ascot and Kempton, and one of the year's most competitive events, the Ladbrokes Hurdle, with the mare Dance Beat.

When the present campaign began, Dance Beat's graduation to novice chasing seemed to offer the best chance for further valuable success. Those hopes came to a miserable conclusion when, after two easy wins, Dance Beat was put down after breaking a leg at Punchestown in November. Yet in an example of shifting fortunes which is remarkable even by racing's fickle standards, Space Trucker belted around the Champion Hurdle course and distance at Cheltenham barely half an hour later to record the facile win in a handicap hurdle which marked him down as a serious championship contender.

"He seemed to fly up the hill," Harrington says, "and after that people started talking

Greg Wood talks to Jessica Harrington, trainer of Champion hope Space Trucker

about it, though even then, I was saying "don't be so ridiculous". But if everything goes right and the ground is good, I'd be hopeful. He's a horse who travels very well through his races, so the pace in the Champion will really suit him. We'll want to get three or four leading him to the last, and after that he certainly seems to have plenty of foot."

If Space Trucker's trainer is persuasive, then so too are the form lines. Punters who waded in to back Make A Stand for the Champion after he galloped away from his field in the Jote Gold Trophy may not wish to be

reminded that Martin Pipe's novice was a dozen lengths adrift of Space Trucker back in November, having set a pace which he could not sustain but which set up the race perfectly for the winner.

Things went a little less smoothly in the Fighting Fifth Hurdle at Newcastle, when Space Trucker entered into the lead before the last flight and, probably as a result, hit it hard. The determination with which he then fought back to win, however, was admirable.

"He won't win the Champion by five lengths," Harrington says, "but he might win by a short-head. He's an absolute devil, if he hits the front he tends to stop. But he's improving all the time. He won his maiden at Downpatrick [though Harrington is too polite to admit it, the British equivalent would probably be Fakenham], and there you run round for £1,200, but I wanted him to win a race because he'd lost a bit of confidence after a fall."

"He started the season on a handicap mark of 104 and now he's up to 143, that's in less than a year, and basically this is a horse who's by Kambalada so I always thought he'd be more of a chaser."

The delicate task of unleashing Space Trucker at the Cheltenham hill at just the right moment could fall to John Short, who was in the saddle at

Newcastle. "He understands him, and he has great confidence in him," Harrington says. Unfortunately Short, who would normally struggle to get aboard a 100-1 chance in the Champion, is currently learning the finer points of Sod's Law, since he also has first refusal on Kevin Froese's novice, Im Supersix. He is at smaller odds than Space Trucker in the Festival betting, and Harrington may yet face a last-minute jockey hunt.

The going, though, is still her principal worry. The gelding's campaign was carefully structured around a mid-winter break when, in a normal year, the ground would have been unsuitably soft. It would be ironic, then, if the ground came up heavy next month, particularly if the clerk of the course has as much to do with the situation as the elements. Plans for a pre-Festival outing at Leopardstown on 2 March will also be shelved if the mud is likely to be flying.

Given the right conditions, though, it is not difficult to see Space Trucker ending Ireland's long lean spell in the timber championship. "When they gave him the name," Harrington recalls, "I said that probably either he'd be a disaster, or the film would be. If it must be one or the other, then Dennis Hopper, at least, should be able to afford it."



Space Trucker crashes through Newcastle's final hurdle, but he still emerged victorious. Photograph: Phil Smith

Hughes sure of Wigan's future

Rugby League
DAVE HADFIELD

Wigan's new coach, Eric Hughes, is resigned to losing Vala Tuigamala, whose signing Newcastle are expected to announce today. Hughes' reign is therefore beginning with the same sort of depletion of his squad that depressed his predecessor, Graeme West.

"He came from rugby union and that is where his heart is," Hughes said of Tuigamala's imminent departure. "But I still feel I can put a side that is the envy of every other coach."

Bobbie Goulding, the St Helens captain and scrum-half, is to have his appeal against an eight-match suspension heard tomorrow. Goulding was sent off for a high tackle on Wigan's Neil Cowie in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup tie between the two sides, but St Helens have described the ban as outweighing the severity of the offence.

Tickets for this year's final on 3 May will be at a premium, if early sales are any indication. All top-priced seats have already been sold, with interest fuelled, the League believes, by the quality of last year's final between St Helens and Bradford Bulls.

The finalists in the Silk Cut Plate, for First and Second Division clubs knocked out of the Cup, will receive only 2,000 tickets each, because of the guaranteed allocation to the finalists in the day's main event.

Aly Spencer, the former Cambridge University stand-off, could be the London Broncos' surprise choice at hooker for their fifth-round tie against Bradford on Saturday.

Bradford have denied that Danny Peacock, their centre, could be prevented from playing in the tie by a contract with the Australian Rugby League. "There is only one organisation with which Danny Peacock has a contract and he will play for us on Saturday," Peter Deakin, the Bulls' spokesman, said.

Iestyn Harris, the Great Britain stand-off who played his last game at any level for Warrington since last summer when he lined up for the reserve side in the Alliance Cup tie against Leeds tomorrow night, Harris is on the transfer list at a world record £1.35m, but has been recalled to training with the first team squad. If he comes through successfully, he could play in the Challenge Cup tie at home to Sheffield Eagles on Sunday.

Oldham, who have announced a tie-in with the Manchester Storm ice hockey club, hope David Bradbury, their Lions' tour loose-forward, will agree a new contract before Sunday's tie at Wakefield Trinity.

Injured Young Hustler is out of the Grand National

Eighty six horses stood their ground at yesterday's forfeit stage for the Grand National at Aintree on 5 April. The major defector was Young Hustler, who has been ruled out for the season by his trainer, Nigel Twiston-Davies.

The 10-year-old damaged a near-for spongy ligament when working at the weekend. Twiston-Davies said yesterday: "There's not much wrong with him but he won't run again this season."

Master Oats, whose future is in the balance after he was pulled up in the Ericsson GSM

Pitman's Lad steps out of the shadows

old won last year's fast-run Sun Alliance Chase at the Festival, a race only just short of the Gold Cup distance.

Nathaniel had a prospect for the big one took a knock when he galloped poorly on his first two starts this season. His odds declined badly, but he has started to move after his latest run, at Cheltenham on Saturday. He jumped superbly in a race of less than two-and-a-half miles, far short of the optimum, and was outpaced only in the closing stages by the useful Air Shot, who was receiving 12/1.

The Pitman horse is hitting form at the right time.

Rodney Farrant, in the saddle on Saturday, was full of enthusiasm over Nathaniel's performance. "This is an excellent jumper, very clever at his fences, which you need around Cheltenham," Farrant said. "We were very pleased, especially over that distance. He's suited by soft ground, but has won over a trip on good ground. It looks like either myself or Norman Williamson rides him in the Gold Cup."

Chris Corrigan

RESULTS

MARKET RASEN
2.00: 1. NY CHERRY (Jr) 15-2; 2. WINDY HEAD 5-5; 3. MURPHY 11-1; 4. BURNING 11-1; 5. NORTON 11-1; 6. BURNING 11-1; 7. NORTON 11-1; 8. BURNING 11-1; 9. NORTON 11-1; 10. BURNING 11-1; 11. NORTON 11-1; 12. BURNING 11-1; 13. NORTON 11-1; 14. BURNING 11-1; 15. NORTON 11-1; 16. BURNING 11-1; 17. NORTON 11-1; 18. BURNING 11-1; 19. NORTON 11-1; 20. BURNING 11-1; 21. NORTON 11-1; 22. BURNING 11-1; 23. NORTON 11-1; 24. BURNING 11-1; 25. NORTON 11-1; 26. BURNING 11-1; 27. NORTON 11-1; 28. BURNING 11-1; 29. NORTON 11-1; 30. BURNING 11-1; 31. NORTON 11-1; 32. BURNING 11-1; 33. NORTON 11-1; 34. BURNING 11-1; 35. NORTON 11-1; 36. BURNING 11-1; 37. NORTON 11-1; 38. BURNING 11-1; 39. NORTON 11-1; 40. BURNING 11-1; 41. NORTON 11-1; 42. BURNING 11-1; 43. NORTON 11-1; 44. BURNING 11-1; 45. NORTON 11-1; 46. BURNING 11-1; 47. NORTON 11-1; 48. BURNING 11-1; 49. NORTON 11-1; 50. BURNING 11-1; 51. NORTON 11-1; 52. BURNING 11-1; 53. NORTON 11-1; 54. BURNING 11-1; 55. NORTON 11-1; 56. BURNING 11-1; 57. NORTON 11-1; 58. BURNING 11-1; 59. NORTON 11-1; 60. BURNING 11-1; 61. NORTON 11-1; 62. BURNING 11-1; 63. NORTON 11-1; 64. BURNING 11-1; 65. NORTON 11-1; 66. BURNING 11-1; 67. NORTON 11-1; 68. BURNING 11-1; 69. NORTON 11-1; 70. BURNING 11-1; 71. NORTON 11-1; 72. BURNING 11-1; 73. NORTON 11-1; 74. BURNING 11-1; 75. NORTON 11-1; 76. BURNING 11-1; 77. NORTON 11-1; 78. BURNING 11-1; 79. NORTON 11-1; 80. BURNING 11-1; 81. NORTON 11-1; 82. BURNING 11-1; 83. NORTON 11-1; 84. BURNING 11-1; 85. NORTON 11-1; 86. BURNING 11-1; 87. NORTON 11-1; 88. BURNING 11-1; 89. NORTON 11-1; 90. BURNING 11-1; 91. NORTON 11-1; 92. BURNING 11-1; 93. NORTON 11-1; 94. BURNING 11-1; 95. NORTON 11-1; 96. BURNING 11-1; 97. NORTON 11-1; 98. BURNING 11-1; 99. NORTON 11-1; 100. BURNING 11-1; 101. NORTON 11-1; 102. BURNING 11-1; 103. NORTON 11-1; 104. BURNING 11-1; 105. NORTON 11-1; 106. BURNING 11-1; 107. NORTON 11-1; 108. BURNING 11-1; 109. NORTON 11-1; 110. BURNING 11-1; 111. NORTON 11-1; 112. BURNING 11-1; 113. NORTON 11-1; 114. BURNING 11-1; 115. NORTON 11-1; 116. BURNING 11-1; 117. NORTON 11-1; 118. BURNING 11-1; 119. NORTON 11-1; 120. BURNING 11-1; 121. NORTON 11-1; 122. BURNING 11-1; 123. NORTON 11-1; 124. BURNING 11-1; 125. NORTON 11-1; 126. BURNING 11-1; 127. NORTON 11-1; 128. BURNING 11-1; 129. NORTON 11-1; 130. BURNING 11-1; 131. NORTON 11-1; 132. BURNING 11-1; 133. NORTON 11-1; 134. BURNING 11-1; 135. NORTON 11-1; 136. BURNING 11-1; 137. NORTON 11-1; 138. BURNING 11-1; 139. NORTON 11-1; 140. BURNING 11-1; 141. NORTON 11-1; 142. BURNING 11-1; 143. NORTON 11-1; 144. BURNING 11-1; 145. NORTON 11-1; 146. BURNING 11-1; 147. NORTON 11-1; 148. BURNING 11-1; 149. NORTON 11-1; 150. BURNING 11-1; 151. NORTON 11-1; 152. BURNING 11-1; 153. NORTON 11-1; 154. BURNING 11-1; 155. NORTON 11-1; 156. BURNING 11-1; 157. NORTON 11-1; 158. BURNING 11-1; 159. NORTON 11-1; 160. BURNING 11-1; 161. NORTON 11-1; 162. BURNING 11-1; 163. NORTON 11-1; 164. BURNING 11-1; 165. NORTON 11-1; 166. BURNING 11-1; 167. NORTON 11-1; 168. BURNING 11-1; 169. NORTON 11-1; 170. BURNING 11-1; 171. NORTON 11-1; 172. BURNING 11-1; 173. NORTON 11-1; 174. BURNING 11-1; 175. NORTON 11-1; 176. BURNING 11-1; 177. NORTON 11-1; 178. BURNING 11-1; 179. NORTON 11-1; 180. BURNING 11-1; 181. NORTON 11-1; 182. BURNING 11-1; 183. NORTON 11-1; 184. BURNING 11-1; 185. NORTON 11-1; 186. BURNING 11-1; 187. NORTON 11-1; 188. BURNING 11-1; 189. NORTON 11-1; 190. BURNING 11-1; 191. NORTON 11-1; 192. BURNING 11-1; 193. NORTON 11-1; 194. BURNING 11-1; 195. NORTON 11-1; 196. BURNING 11-1; 197. NORTON 11-1; 198. BURNING 11-1; 199. NORTON 11-1; 200. BURNING 11-1; 201. NORTON 11-1; 202. BURNING 11-1; 203. NORTON 11-1; 204. BURNING 11-1; 205. NORTON 11-1; 206. BURNING 11-1; 207. NORTON 11-1; 208. BURNING 11-1; 209. NORTON 11-1; 210. BURNING 11-1; 211. NORTON 11-1; 212. BURNING 11-1; 213. NORTON 11-1; 214. BURNING 11-1; 215. NORTON 11-1; 216. BURNING 11-1; 217. NORTON 11-1; 218. BURNING 11-1; 219. NORTON 11-1; 220. BURNING 11-1; 221. NORTON 11-1; 222. BURNING 11-1; 223. NORTON 11-1; 224. BURNING 11-1; 225. NORTON 11-1; 226. BURNING 11-1; 227. NORTON 11-1; 228. BURNING 11-1; 229. NORTON 11-1; 230. BURNING 11-1; 231. NORTON 11-1; 232. BURNING 11-1; 233. NORTON 11-1; 234. BURNING 11-1; 235. NORTON 11-1; 236. BURNING 11-1; 237. NORTON 11-1; 238. BURNING 11-1; 239. NORTON 11-1; 240. BURNING 11-1; 241. NORTON 11-1; 242. BURNING 11-1; 243. NORTON 11-1; 244. BURNING 11-1; 245. NORTON 11-1; 246. BURNING 11-1; 247. NORTON 11-1; 248. BURNING 11-1; 249. NORTON 11-1; 250. BURNING 11-1; 251. NORTON 11-1; 252. BURNING 11-1; 253. NORTON 11-1; 254. BURNING 11-1; 255. NORTON 11-1; 256. BURNING 11-1; 257. NORTON 11-1; 258. BURNING 11-1; 259. NORTON 11-1; 260. BURNING 11-1; 261. NORTON 11-1; 262. BURNING 11-1; 263. NORTON 11-1; 264. BURNING 11-1; 265. NORTON 11-1; 266. BURNING 11-1; 267. NORTON 11-1; 268. BURNING 11-1; 269. NORTON 11-1; 270. BURNING 11-1; 271. NORTON 11-1; 272. BURNING 11-1; 273. NORTON 11-1; 274. BURNING 11-1; 275. NORTON 11-1; 276. BURNING 11-1; 277. NORTON 11-1; 278. BURNING 11-1; 279. NORTON 11-1; 280. BURNING 11-1; 281. NORTON 11-1; 282. BURNING 11-1; 283. NORTON 11-1; 284. BURNING 11-1; 285. NORTON 11-1; 286. BURNING 11-1; 287. NORTON 11-1; 288. BURNING 11-1; 289. NORTON 11-1; 290. BURNING 11-1; 291. NORTON 11-1; 292. BURNING 11-1; 293. NORTON 11-1; 294. BURNING 11-1; 295. NORTON 11-1; 296. BURNING 11-1; 297. NORTON 11-1; 298. BURNING 11-1; 299. NORTON 11-1; 300. BURNING 11-1; 301. NORTON 11-1; 302. BURNING 11-1; 303. NORTON 11-1; 304. BURNING 11-1; 305. NORTON 11-1; 306. BURNING 11-1; 307. NORTON 11-1; 308. BURNING 11-1; 309. NORTON 11-1; 310. BURNING 11-1; 311. NORTON 11-1; 312. BURNING 11-1; 313. NORTON 11-1; 314. BURNING 11-1; 315. NORTON 11-1; 316. BURNING 11-1; 317. NORTON 11-1; 318. BURNING 11-1; 319. NORTON 11-1; 320. BURNING 11-1; 321. NORTON 11-1; 322. BURNING 11-1; 323. NORTON 11-1; 324. BURNING 11-1; 325. NORTON 11-1; 326. BURNING 11-1; 327. NORTON 11-1; 328. BURNING 11-1; 329. NORTON 11-1; 330. BURNING 11-1; 331. NORTON 11-1; 332. BURNING 11-1; 333. NORTON 11-1; 334. BURNING 11-1; 335. NORTON 11-1; 336. BURNING 11-1; 337. NORTON 11-1; 338. BURNING 11-1; 339. NORTON 11-1; 340. BURNING 11-1; 341. NORTON 11-1; 342. BURNING 11-1; 343. NORTON 11-1; 344. BURNING 11-1; 345. NORTON 11-1; 346. BURNING 11-1; 347. NORTON 11-1; 348. BURNING 11-1; 349. NORTON 11-1; 350. BURNING 11-1; 351. NORTON 11-1; 352. BURNING 11-1; 353. NORTON 11-1; 354. BURNING 11-1; 355. NORTON 11-1; 356. BURNING 11-1; 357. NORTON 11-1; 358. BURNING 11-1; 359. NORTON 11-1; 360. BURNING 11-1; 361. NORTON 11-1; 362. BURNING 11-1; 363. NORTON 11-1; 364. BURNING 11-1; 365. NORTON 11-1; 366. BURNING 11-1; 367. NORTON 11-1; 368. BURNING 11-1; 369. NORTON 11-1; 370. BURNING 11-1; 371. NORTON 11-1; 372. BURNING 11-1; 373. NORTON 11-1; 374. BURNING 11-1; 375. NORTON 11-1; 376. BURNING 11-1; 377. NORTON 11-1; 378. BURNING 11-1; 379. NORTON 11-1; 380. BURNING 11-1; 381. NORTON 11-1; 382. BURNING 11-1; 383. NORTON 11-1; 384. BURNING 11-1; 385. NORTON 11-1; 386. BURNING 11-1; 387. NORTON 11-1; 388. BURNING 11-1; 389. NORTON 11-1; 390. BURNING 11-1; 391. NORTON 11-1; 392. BURNING 11-1; 393. NORTON 11-1; 394. BURNING 11-1; 395. NORTON 11-1; 396. BURNING 11-1; 397. NORTON 11-1; 398. BURNING 11-1; 399. NORTON 11-1; 400. BURNING 11-1; 401. NORTON 11-1; 402. BURNING 11-1; 403. NORTON 11-1; 404. BURNING 11-1; 405. NORTON 11-1; 406. BURNING 11-1; 407. NORTON 11-1; 408. BURNING 11-1; 409. NORTON 11-1; 410. BURNING 11-1; 411. NORTON 11-1; 412. BURNING 11-1; 413. NORTON 11-1; 414. BURNING 11-1; 415. NORTON 11-1; 416. BURNING 11-1; 417. NORTON 11-1; 418. BURNING 11-1; 419. NORTON 11-1; 420. BURNING 11-1; 421. NORTON 11-1; 422. BURNING 11-1; 423. NORTON 11-1; 424. BURNING 11-1; 425. NORTON 11-1; 426. BURNING 11-1; 427. NORTON 11-1; 428. BURNING 11-1; 429. NORTON 11-1; 430. BURNING 11-1; 431. NORTON 11-1; 432. BURNING 11-1; 433. NORTON 11-1; 434. BURNING 11-1; 435. NORTON 11-1; 436. BURNING 11-1; 437. NORTON 11-1; 438. BURNING 11-1; 439. NORTON 11-1; 440. BURNING 11-1; 441. NORTON 11-1; 442. BURNING 11-1; 443. NORTON 11-1; 444. BURNING 11-1; 445. NORTON 11-1; 446. BURNING 11-1; 447. NORTON 11-1; 448. BURNING 11-1; 449. NORTON 11-1; 450. BURNING 11-1; 451. NORTON 11-1; 452. BURNING 11-1; 453. NORTON 11-1; 454. BURNING 11-1; 455. NORTON 11-1; 456. BURNING 11-1; 457. NORTON 11-1; 458. BURNING 11-1; 459. NORTON 11-1; 460. BURNING 11-1; 461. NORTON 11-1; 462. BURNING 11-1; 463. NORTON 11-1; 464. BURNING 11-1; 465. NORTON 11-1; 466. BURNING 11-1; 467. NORTON 11-1; 468. BURNING 11-1; 469. NORTON 11-1; 470. BURNING 11-1; 471. NORTON 11-1; 472. BURNING 11-1; 473. NORTON 11-1; 474. BURNING 11-1; 475. NORTON 11-1; 476. BURNING 11-1; 477. NORTON 11-1; 478. BURNING 11-1; 479. NORTON 11-1; 480. BURNING 11-1; 481. NORTON 11-1; 482. BURNING 11-1; 483. NORTON 11-1; 484. BURNING 11-1; 485. NORTON 11-1; 486. BURNING 11-1; 487. NORTON 11-1; 488. BURNING 11-1; 489. NORTON 11-1; 490. BURNING 11-1; 491. NORTON 11-1; 492. BURNING 11-1; 493. NORTON 11-1; 494. BURNING 11-1; 495. NORTON 11-1; 496. BURNING 11-1; 497. NORTON 11-1; 498. BURNING 11-1; 499. NORTON 11-1; 500. BURNING 11-1; 501. NORTON 11-1; 502. BURNING 11-1; 503. NORTON 11-1; 504. BURNING 11-1; 505. NORTON 11-1; 506. BURNING 11-1; 507. NORTON 11-1; 508. BURNING 11-1; 509. NORTON 11-1; 510. BURNING 11-1; 511. NORTON 11-1; 512. BURNING 11-1; 513. NORTON 11-1; 514. BURNING 11-1; 515. NORTON 11-1; 516. BURNING 11-1; 517. NORTON 11-1; 518. BURNING 11-1; 519. NORTON 11-1; 520. BURNING 11-1; 521. NORTON 11-1; 522. BURNING 11-1; 523. NORTON 11-1; 524. BURNING 11-1; 525. NORTON 11-1; 526. BURNING 11-1; 527. NORTON 11-1; 528. BURNING 11-1; 529. NORTON 11-1; 530. BURNING 11-1; 531. NORTON 11-1; 532. BURNING 11-1; 533. NORTON 11-1; 534. BURNING 11-1; 535. NORTON 11-1; 536. BURNING 11-1; 537. NORTON 11-1; 538. BURNING 11-1; 539. NORTON 11-1; 540. BURNING 11-1; 541. NORTON 11-1; 542. BURNING 11-1; 543. NORTON 11-1; 544. BURNING 11-1; 545. NORTON 11-1; 546. BURNING 11-1; 547. NORTON 11-1; 548. BURNING 11-1; 549. NORTON 11-1; 550. BURNING 11-1; 551. NORTON 11-1; 552. BURNING 11-1; 553. NORTON 11-1; 554. BURNING 11-1; 555. NORTON 11-1; 556. BURNING 11-1; 557. NORTON 11-1; 558. BURNING 11-1; 559. NORTON 11-1; 560. BURNING 11-1; 561. NORTON 11-1; 562. BURNING 11-1; 563. NORTON 11-1; 564. BURNING 11-1; 565. NORTON 11-1; 566. BURNING 11-1; 567. NORTON 11-1; 568. BURNING 11-1; 569. NORTON 11-1; 570. BURNING 11-1; 571. NORTON 11-1; 572. BURNING 11-1; 573. NORTON 11-1; 574. BURNING 11-1; 575. NORTON 11-1; 576. BURNING 11-1; 577. NORTON 11-1; 578. BURNING 11-1; 579. NORTON 11-1; 580. BURNING 11-1; 581. NORTON 11-1; 582. BURNING 11-1; 583. NORTON 11-1; 584. BURNING 11-1; 585. NORTON 11-1; 586. BURNING 11-1; 587. NORTON 11-1; 588. BURNING 11-1; 589. NORTON 11-1; 590. BURNING 11-1; 591. NORTON 11-1; 592. BURNING 11-1; 593. NORTON 11-1; 594. BURNING 11-1; 595. NORTON 11-1; 596. BURNING 11-1; 597. NORTON 11-1; 598. BURNING 11-1; 599. NORTON 11-1; 600. BURNING 11-1; 601. NORTON 11-1; 602. BURNING 11-1; 603. NORTON 11-1; 604. BURNING 11-1; 605. NORTON 11-1; 606. BURNING 11-1; 607. NORTON 11-1; 608. BURNING 11-1; 609. NORTON 11-1; 610. BURNING 11-1; 611. NORTON 11-1; 612. BURNING 11-1; 613. NORTON 11-1; 614. BURNING 11-1; 615. NORTON 11-1; 616. BURNING 11-1; 617. NORTON 11-1; 618. BURNING 11-1; 619. NORTON 11-1; 620. BURNING 11-1; 621. NORTON 11-1; 622. BURNING 11-1; 623. NORTON 11-1; 624. BURNING 11-1; 625. NORTON 11-1; 626. BURNING 11-1; 627. NORTON 11-1; 628. BURNING 11-1; 629. NORTON 11-1; 630. BURNING 11-1; 631. NORTON 11-1; 632. BURNING 11-1; 633. NORTON 11-1; 634. BURNING 11-1; 635. NORTON 11-1; 636. BURNING 11-1; 637. NORTON 11-1; 638. BURNING 11-1; 639. NORTON 11-1; 640. BURNING 11-1; 641. NORTON 11-1; 642. BURNING 11-1; 643. NORTON 11-1; 644. BURNING 11-1; 645. NORTON 11-1; 646. BURNING 11-1; 647. NORTON 11-1; 648. BURNING 11-1; 649. NORTON 11-1; 650. BURNING 11-1; 651. NORTON 11-1; 652. BURNING 11-1; 653. NORTON 11-1; 654. BURNING 11-1; 655. NORTON 11-1; 656. BURNING 11-1; 657. NORTON 11-1; 658. BURNING 11-1; 659. NORTON 11-1; 660. BURNING 11-1; 661. NORTON 11-1; 662. BURNING 11-1; 663. NORTON 11-1; 664. BURNING 11-1; 665. NORTON 11-1; 666. BURNING 11-1; 667. NORTON 11-1; 668. BURNING 11-1; 669.

sport

The unsung and unpaid heroes of motor racing

Silverstone on a hostile February day; black clouds hanging down spars of icy water. Much as you would expect for another round of winter testing. Except that there are no grand prix cars here today, not even a few gentle historicists. No crowd, no television. In its way, however, it is just as important as a Formula One test, and everyone out here subjecting himself or herself to the elements is assured much.

"What you do could be life-saving. You are essential and intrinsic to what we do here. Without you there is no racing, no grand prix." It is a rallying call to the audience of 350 scarcely requires. These are the converted, the committed: train-spotters, some would say. These are motor racing marshals.

Just like the millionaire drivers, these volunteers have their training days. Some here are novices, most are on refresher courses. They pay their own way and for their overalls, which can cost £70. Their allowance for the three days of last year's British

Grand Prix meeting was £10. They may be in for an increase at this year's four-day event.

But then, as they tell you, this is their hobby, it's what turns them on. You suspect them to be frustrated motor racers. "No, just nuts about the sport," most insist. A middle-aged woman, who has been a marshal for six years, says: "I want to be involved and put something back into the sport. That sounds altruistic, but it's true."

They put something back - waving warning flags, extinguishing fires, dragging stricken cars from gravel traps and controlling crowds - at circuits up and down the land. A thousand of them will be on duty at the grand prix here in July.

High summer seems as distant as the next British world champion as instructors from the marshals' club take groups through their specialised tasks. Out in the country, exposed to the full venom of the elements, fire-fighters tackle a burning car. A woman of modest stature and a boy of 16 - the minimum age

for a marshal - are among those who attack the flames with growing belief. Around 20 per cent of marshals are female.

Back in the classroom, the groups settle for instruction and an exchange of opinions. They range from a "gold" man with 30 years experience to "greys" and novices. They are preached the virtues of customer care, the customer being the driver, team member, organiser and spectator. "We are like referees." In other words, they get it in the neck from all sides.

"You've got to look interested even if you want them to bugger off. We've travelled miles, paid to get there, we're soaking wet, tired, crap food, but we do it because we love it. We have people from different jobs, from a cross-section of the community, but here we are teams and marshals who meet at weekends. Please don't think we are cliquish or weird. We're pleased to see more ladies."

That last remark is directed at two slightly nervous looking novices. Their apprehension

Derick Allsop spends a testing day at Silverstone with the marshals

becomes more acute with further recollections of encounters with difficult "customers". "I do not expect someone to call me a something cow. Not because I am a woman, but because I am a marshal. Some are offensive."

The gold man chimes in: "You've got to be thick-skinned. It's down to experience. One of the pits, not here, is a Stalg 17 job. Even I was shocked." The woman marshal comes back: "I know they are under stress, but I can accept only a certain amount from them, not abuse."

A male marshal with a long memory recounts: "Stirling Moss asked where his Ferrari was and was told to sit down in the corner and shut up. And he did." Another marshal: "There's a certain lady, who is the exception, who tells you to eff off. What do you do?" A colleague proffers a solution: "You've had your fire training - aim at her." One of the novices, by now perplexed, asks: "What are these complaints?"

Someone leaning casually in the corner responds: "Why can't I do that? Why can't I go there? Why am I disqualified?" The gold man comes to the rescue. "Don't think it's so bad. It's fun. These are the negative sides. Don't take it personally, just get it sorted."

After lunch another group is digesting procedural guidance in the event of a major incident. Team discipline is declared essential. "The last thing we need is heroes." At the scrutineering bay, the rescue crew demonstrate their efficiency with cutting equipment. They can remove the roof of a touring car in five minutes. "If we can't get a driver out, no one can."

Heroes or not, British marshals are content to perpetuate the claim that they are the best trained and regimented in the world. A former chief incident officer, battle-weary and scarred,

league proffers a solution: "You've had your fire training - aim at her." One of the novices, by now perplexed, asks: "What are these complaints?"

Someone leaning casually in the corner responds: "Why can't I do that? Why can't I go there? Why am I disqualified?" The gold man comes to the rescue. "Don't think it's so bad. It's fun. These are the negative sides. Don't take it personally, just get it sorted."

After lunch another group is digesting procedural guidance in the event of a major incident. Team discipline is declared essential. "The last thing we need is heroes." At the scrutineering bay, the rescue crew demonstrate their efficiency with cutting equipment. They can remove the roof of a touring car in five minutes. "If we can't get a driver out, no one can."

Heroes or not, British marshals are content to perpetuate the claim that they are the best trained and regimented in the world. A former chief incident officer, battle-weary and scarred,



Derick Allsop (centre) feels the heat with the marshals during testing at Silverstone. Photograph: Peter Jay

says: "I don't think some team managers would realise we are here today - or even care."

Gary Dean worked his way through the ranks to become the present chief incident officer here and his wife, Pam, from the banks to the control tower. "There's more enjoyment at club meetings than grand prix meetings. The grand prix is the pinnacle and everyone is drawn by the speed and hype. But to be honest, it's not worth the

Everton bid for Bradford keeper

Football
ALAN NIXON

Everton have made a £1.4m bid for Bradford City's Australian goalkeeper, Mark Schwarzer. Joe Royle hopes to complete the deal today for the 24-year-old, who has played only 16 games for the Yorkshire club since joining them from Kaiserslautern for £200,000.

Schwarzer has a clause in his contract saying he can leave for any offer over £1m and the Everton move appeals to him. Schwarzer competes with Aston Villa's Mark Bosnich for Australia's No 1 shirt and has been called up by Terry Venables for his squad as they prepare for World Cup qualifying matches.

Blackburn Rovers manager, Tony Parkes, made a £2.5m bid for the Danish striker Per Pedersen last night. The Odense forward is due to fly in today to join Blackburn after a dramatic move by Parkes to stop the Rovers slide. Parkes wants Pedersen signed in time to make his debut at Liverpool on Saturday.

Swansea's chairman, Doug Sharpe, has put the Third Division club back up for sale at £300,000, a fifth of what he says the club owes him. The decision follows continued arguments between him and the manager, Jan Molby. "I have done my best to keep the club in the top four," Sharpe said. "That's my lot. I won't put in another penny. I want out."

Cardiff fans have been banned from attending the Third Division derby at Swansea. The match, originally scheduled for 1 March, has been put back a day to Sunday and will kick off at noon. Because of a long history of trouble between the supporters, Swansea fans were refused admission to Ninian Park when the clubs met in December.

The all Second Division FA Cup quarter-final tie between Chesterfield and Wrexham has been switched to Sunday 9 March at 12 noon from the Saturday on police advice, as Chesterfield's near neighbours Derby have a home game on the on the Saturday.

Brighton supporters' representatives have been asked by the Gillingham chairman, Paul Scally, to carry out a survey to determine whether fans want the proposed ground-share at the Priestfield Stadium. Scally has requested the move after threatening to scrap the deal because of fierce opposition from Seagulls fans, who do not want a 170-mile round trip for home games.

Premiership clubs will adopt a standard design for numbers and names on team shirts next season. Premier League clubs agreed a rule change at this month's meeting to ensure players' numbers and names are clearly identifiable by fans and TV cameras alike.

Ian Ferguson has been given a final warning about his conduct by Scotland's manager, Craig Brown, after the Rangers player used abusive language after the World Cup match against Estonia in Monte Carlo.

Scotland end patient Tait's wait

Rugby Union
CHRIS HEWETT

Alan Tait's quiet re-emergence as a rugby union centre of serious quality was given fresh momentum yesterday when the Scottish selectors followed the example of their Lions counterparts and drafted him into the senior squad. The Newcastle centre was one of three players promoted from the A team for the match with Ireland at Murrayfield on Saturday week.

At 32, Tait is hardly a rookie. He won the first of his eight caps a full decade ago - he came on as a replacement in the 28-22 defeat by France at the Parc des Princes - and the last of them against England in Edinburgh the following season. But before throwing in his lot with rugby league at the end of 1988, he had proved himself a strong, capable midfield linchpin.

Tait was a firm favourite to face England just over a fortnight ago, but Richie Dixon, the Scottish coach, felt a rushed re-

turn to full international rugby would be too much. England's record victory forced a re-think.

He is 99 per cent certain to face the Irish, his midfield partner will be either Tony Stanger, who impressed against England, or Gregor Townsend, who may be moved outside to make room for the more orthodox Craig Chalmers at outside-half.

There are two other changes in the Scottish 21. Duncan Hodge, the Watsonians stand-off, is included - a move that suggests Chalmers has every chance of a recall - as is Cameron Glasgow, the Heriot's wing who went to South Africa with the World Cup squad in 1995 but remains uncapped. Two centres, Ronnie Eriksson and Scott Hastings, and the right wing, Derek Stark, drop out to accommodate the newcomers.

SCOTLAND SQUAD: Ireland, Murrayfield, 29 February: Backs: 6 Armstrong (Newcastle), 7 Chalmers (Metros), 8 Glasgow (Heriot's), 9 Hodge (Watsonians), 10 Logan (Strling), 11 Macdonald (Rangers), 12 Macleod (Rangers), 13 Macleod (Rangers), 14 Macleod (Rangers), 15 Macleod (Rangers), 16 Macleod (Rangers), 17 Macleod (Rangers), 18 Macleod (Rangers), 19 Macleod (Rangers), 20 Macleod (Rangers), 21 Macleod (Rangers).



Mud mark: Laurent Cabannes, of Harlequins, gets hold of Auckland's Junior Tonu'u at The Stoop yesterday. Photograph: Allsport

Auckland benefit from changed Quins

DAVID STEVENS

Harlequins	29
Auckland	33

Auckland were forced to battle hard for a narrow victory at The Stoop yesterday. In their second match of their warm-up tour of Europe before they defend their Super-12 title, they twice trailed before their second row Richard Fromont went over in the corner for the ninth try of

the match to put his side 30-29 ahead.

Kicking a pitch that resembled a swamp, Adrian Cashmore was successful with two penalties and a conversion from seven shots with the clinching goal in the final minute.

In an attempt to keep players fresh for their Pilkington Cup quarter-final against Saracens on Sunday, Harlequins changed seven players - including five at half-time.

By conceding 18 penalties,

Harlequins put paid to their chances of an upset after Bristol had collapsed against the tourists last week. Auckland next face the European champions, Brive, before taking on the South African Province next month.

Joeli Vidiri pursued Lee Stensness's diagonal kick for an early try, but Harlequins established a 22-5 lead when Dominic Chapman scored on the blind side, Peter Mensah was given a soft interception and

Gareth Llewellyn went over after a maul.

Thierry Lacroix converted twice and landed a penalty and Auckland were grateful when scrum half Junior Tonu'u dived over for a converted try in first-half injury time.

After the substitutions of Jason Leonard and Will Carling, Auckland clawed back from a 22-12 interval deficit to go ahead with tries by Brian Lima and Mark Carter.

Cashmore claimed a penalty

in between, but Nick Walsh, the Quins scrum-half, scored a brilliant try on the hour, but their four point lead was just not enough.

Auckland: Tries Vidiri, Tonu'u, Lima, Carter, Fromont; Conversions Cashmore; Penalties Cashmore 2, Harlequins: Tries Chapman, Mensah, Llewellyn, Walsh; Conversions Lacroix 2, Conversion Penalty Lacroix; Harlequins: Pleguez, Chapman, Carling, Mansh, Lacroix, Lacroix, Walsh, Leonard, Salup, Mullins, Snow, Gareth Llewellyn, Davison, Cashmore, Jennings.

Auckland: Cashmore; Vain, Clarke, Stensness, Lima, Spencer, Tonu'u, Crawford, Roose, Brown, Romon, Brodie, Leake, Robinson, Carter. Referee: E Morrison (Bristol).

South African rugby in shock as Andre Markgraaff resigns as Springbok manager after he admits making racist remarks in a secretly taped telephone conversation

Page 12

Commemorating the retirement of the world's best loved umpire. THE 'DICKIE' BIRD CHARACTER JUG



A strictly limited edition of 9,500

On Monday 24th June, 1996 legendary cricket umpire and Yorkshireman Harold Dickie Bird MBE retired from international cricket, after presiding over his 69th Test Match, 92 One Day International Matches, 4 World Cup Tournaments and 3 World Cup Finals. He will continue to umpire county matches before hanging up his famous white cap for the very last time in 1997. Now Royal Doulton commemorates Dickie's unique contribution to the game with the Dickie Bird Character Jug. Hand-crafted, and painted in traditional Royal Doulton style, the jug captures perfectly the warmth and individuality of Dickie's character. With a delightful cricket bat handle bearing the Test and County Cricket Board mounds, it is available only from Lloyds by Post for £49.95.

PLEASE, YOU AS TODAY
CALL 01-444 CREDIT CARD LINE 0345 023444
or return your order form below

NO QUILLER GUARANTEE
If you are not completely satisfied with your purchase, please return it to us within 14 days of receipt for a full refund. No questions asked. No postage charges. No return costs. No return address. No return form. No return label. No return postage. No return insurance. No return receipt. No return proof. No return evidence. No return record. No return history. No return data. No return information. No return details. No return facts. No return figures. No return statistics. No return trends. No return patterns. No return anomalies. No return outliers. No return errors. No return omissions. No return commissions. No return exclusions. No return limitations. No return restrictions. No return conditions. No return warranties. No return guarantees. No return promises. No return obligations. No return responsibilities. No return liabilities. No return damages. No return losses. No return expenses. No return costs. No return fees. No return charges. No return taxes. No return duties. No return levies. No return surcharges. No return penalties. No return fines. No return sanctions. No return penalties. No return fines. No return sanctions. No return penalties. No return fines. No return sanctions.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____
POSTCODE _____
COUNTRY _____

Signature _____
Date _____

Llanelli resigned to Evans' month-long absence

Ieuan Evans is unlikely to play again before Wales' Five Nations' Championship match against England at Cardiff Arms Park on 15 March because of injury. That leaves his club, Llanelli, with an unwanted gap to fill during a crucial part of their season.

The former Wales captain suffered a slight hamstring pull during Wales' 27-22 defeat against France in Paris last Saturday, being forced off midway through the second half, but the injury will probably be enough to keep the winger out until the England game.

Unfortunately for Llanelli, they are entering a crucial

stage of the season, facing a Wales Cup tie at Aberystwyth on Saturday, followed by league games against Cardiff, Caerphilly and Swansea.

Anthony Buchanan, the Scarlets team manager, said yesterday: "There is every chance that Ieuan will miss all those matches. He has started treatment with the Welsh Rugby Union's medical team, although at this stage, everyone is confident he will be fit to face England."

Evans, who has made 71 international appearances - a Welsh record - scored the only try when Wales beat England 10-9 four seasons ago, their

solitary success in the last seven meetings between the countries.

Evans has had his problems with injuries, having dislocated his right shoulder five times and suffered an ankle dislocation which cost him around 15 further caps.

The Welshman is a leading candidate for the Lions captaincy in South Africa this summer, as the fortunes of rivals such as Scotland's Rob Wainwright and Ireland's Keith Wood have faltered through form and injury. He was on the Lions tour to Australia in 1989 and New Zealand in 1993.

Evans has scored four tries in his last four internationals,

increasing his Welsh try-scoring record to 32.

The former Scotland international, Alan Sharp, is set to join the Courage League Two side Coventry from Bristol for £75,000 subject to a medical.

Coventry have agreed to buy out the remaining 18 months of the loose-head prop's contract with Bristol and he will be reunited with several former team-mates at Coundon Road, as well as the ex-Bristol captain Derek Eves, who is now director of rugby at the club.

"I was starting to feel a bit stale at Bristol and didn't see any future for me there," Sharp said.

"The opportunity provided by Coventry gives me a new challenge in my career. There have been offers from other clubs in the past, including Newcastle, but this move is right for me and my family."

Sharp has been capped six times by Scotland and still harbours ambitions of playing again for his adopted country.

Derek Brown, a Bristol director, said: "We never wanted Alan to leave, but ever since Coventry made the initial approach the player has made it clear he wanted to move. Therefore, we had no alternative but to seek an amicable solution."

Penalties to come before extra time

A revolutionary plan to hold the penalty shoot-out before playing extra time if a match is level after 90 minutes was approved by the referees' committee of Fifa yesterday.

After a two-day meeting in Zurich, the committee approved the idea, which does not need the assent of the game's law-making body, the International Board.

Andrea Herren, a spokesman for football's world governing body, said: "This decision comes under Fifa regulations for competitions. So if a national association wants to organise its cup competition using this method, they are free to do so. Uefa, for example, could introduce this at the next European Championship."

In other wide-ranging proposals to make the game more attractive, the committee told Fifa that players scoring a goal by deliberate handball should be sent off, that the back-pass rule should be extended to all parts of the body and that the goalkeeper should be allowed to move along his line when facing a penalty. Some of the items will be discussed when the International Board meets in Belfast on 1 March.

Herren added: "Some of the items on what we have called the referees' shopping list can be activated immediately, like the penalty kicks before extra time, and some of them need to be discussed by the Board, but they are all being introduced to make the game more attractive."

WEEKEND FIXTURES AND POOLS FORECAST	
FA Cup Round 5	
1. Chelsea v Manchester United	X
2. Coventry v Everton	X
3. Leicester v Derby	X
4. Liverpool v Blackburn	X
5. Middlesbrough v Newcastle	X
6. Nottingham Forest v Aston Villa	X
7. Southampton v Sheffield Wednesday	X
8. Sunderland v Leeds	X
9. Tottenham v West Ham	X
10. Watford v Ipswich	X
11. Wolves v Norwich	X
12. Yeovil v Barnet	X
Third Division	
13. Exeter v Darlington	X
14. Lincoln v Hereford	X
15. Northampton v Doncaster	X
16. Scammonville v Rochdale	X
17. Southend v Colchester	X
18. Torquay v Hull	X
19. Wigan v Leyton Orient	X
20. Woking v Dagenham	X
Nationwide Football League	
First Division	
21. Barnsley v Wolves	X
22. Charlton v Norwich	X
23. Crystal Palace v Torquay	X
24. Huddersfield v Bolton	X
25. Ipswich v Oxford	X
26. Kidderminster v Swindon	X
27. Luton v Reading	X
28. Maidstone v Plymouth	X
29. Millwall v Southend	X
30. Peterborough v Grimsby	X
31. Stockport v QPR	X
32. West Brom v Portsmouth	X
33. Weymouth v Bournemouth	X
34. Woking v Dagenham	X
Second Division	
35. Blackpool v Stevenage	X
36. Bradford v Bournemouth	X
37. Brentford v Bournemouth	X
38. Bristol City v Crewe	X
39. Burnley v Bristol Rovers	X
40. Darlington v Notts County	X
41. Exeter v Notts County	X
42. Gillingham v Peterborough	X
43. Grimsby v Peterborough	X
44. Luton v Preston	X
45. Rotherham v Wrexham	X
Today's Number	
438	
The number of ranking places separating world tennis No 547 Louise Lattimer, the Warwickshire 19-year-old, from world No 109 Angeles Montolio, whom she beat 6-3, 6-0 in the first round of the LTA Ladies Event in Redbridge yesterday.	

TODAY'S FIXTURES	
Football	
7.30 unless stated	
COCA-COLA CUP	
SEMI-FINAL FIRST LEG	
Derby v Sheffield Wednesday	(8.0)
Sheff Wed v Derby	(8.0)
FA CUP Round 5	
Aston Villa v Coventry (7.45)	
Derby v Sheffield Wednesday (7.45)	
Liverpool v Leeds (7.45)	
West Ham v Newcastle (7.45)	
NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE	
First Division	
Blackpool v Stevenage (7.45)	
Bradford v Bournemouth (7.45)	
Brentford v Bournemouth (7.45)	
Bristol City v Crewe (7.45)	
Burnley v Bristol Rovers (7.45)	
Darlington v Notts County (7.45)	
Exeter v Notts County (7.45)	
Gillingham v Peterborough (7.45)	
Grimsby v Peterborough (7.45)	
Luton v Preston (7.45)	
Rotherham v Wrexham (7.45)	
Second Division	
Blackpool v Stevenage (7.45)	
Bradford v Bournemouth (7.45)	
Brentford v Bournemouth (7.45)	
Bristol City v Crewe (7.45)	
Burnley v Bristol Rovers (7.45)	
Darlington v Notts County (7.45)	
Exeter v Notts County (7.45)	
Gillingham v Peterborough (7.45)	
Grimsby v Peterborough (7.45)	
Luton v Preston (7.45)	
Rotherham v Wrexham (7.45)	

هذا من الادل

German call-up for Dundee

Football

When Berti Vogts called Sean Dundee into the German national squad yesterday, it was another step in a career which has taken the South African-born player to the top of the Bundesliga goal-scoring list.

Dundee began the 1995/96 season classed as an amateur with Karlsruhe, who signed him after spells with Stuttgart Kickers and Ditzingen.

Dundee, now 24, quickly established himself in the first team and had scored 16 league goals by the end of the season.

"He's a dynamic young man, a great header of the ball and totally selfish. All strikers are totally selfish," Vogts said after announcing the squad, but added: "I hope he keeps his carefree nature."

Dundee earned a call-up to the South African national squad in December 1995 - ironically the match was against Germany - but withdrew because of injury.

Media reports suggested the injury was a convenient excuse for a player who had posters of Jürgen Klinsmann and Thomas Häßler on his bedroom wall as a boy and dreamed of playing for Germany.

When it became clear Vogts was interested, Dundee, although of non-German origin, took advantage of a special fast-track procedure for cases of "public interest" to apply for a German passport.

The issue became something of a political football, with South African politicians accusing Dundee of turning his back on his homeland while their German counterparts asked why a football player should get special treatment.

Away from that controversy, though, the unassuming striker's fortunes have gone from

strength to strength. He was voted Player of the Year in 1996 by his fellow professionals and is the Bundesliga's leading scorer this season with 14 goals so far.

Brian Horton, the Huddersfield Town manager, arrived in Italy yesterday with the Nationwide League Under-21 team for tonight's annual game against their Serie B counterparts in Sampdoria's Luigi Ferraris.

Horton is determined the Italians will not record their first win in three matches since these meetings were given an Under-21 age limit in 1995.

"England's Under-21s beat Italy last week, but unfortunately we lost the big one that mattered at Wembley," Horton said.

"But this is a chance to show the Italian people that we are capable at every level, from full international through to the Under-21s and into the Football League - a chance to show that English football is not all about the Premiership."

"It's been a good year for the Nationwide League, with Stockport through to the semi-finals of the Coca-Cola Cup and either Chesterfield or Wrexham assured of a place in the semi-finals of the FA Cup."

"That's magnificent for the game. It shows that lower division clubs can still compete on the field despite the Premiership getting stronger and stronger in financial terms. Although I want everybody involved to enjoy it, I also want to go home having won the game."

With his goalkeepers Chris Day and Richard Wright dropping out of the original party along with Lee Crooks, Darren Eadie and James Scowcroft, Horton has drafted in Kelvin Davis, of Luton, the Norwich pair of Andy Marshall and Danny Mills, as well as turning to his own club side for Ian Lawson.



Celtic's Malky Mackay (right) attempts to pass Keith Wright, of Hibernian, at Easter Road on Monday night. The keenly contested Scottish Cup fourth-round match ended in a 1-1 draw. The winners of the replay will play hosts to Rangers in the quarter-final. Photograph: Reuters

Wenger promises 'surprise' signing

Arsène Wenger yesterday promised to sign a new striker before next month's transfer deadline, but on the eve of tonight's home match against Manchester United he said: "We are already good enough to win the Premiership."

Arsenal's coffers were swelled last week by the £5m sale to West Ham of John Harrison, for whom the Gunners paid £2.5m. That bit of business means Wenger can aim high in his search for a goalscorer. Ajax's Dutch international twins, Ronald and Frank de

Boer, Milan's Marco Simone and Auxerre's Algerian midfielder, Moussa Saib, are thought to be on his list.

Wenger, whose team are two points behind United going in to tonight's game - the first of a series in which all the leading Premiership title challengers visit Highbury, will not rush into the transfer market. "We will sign somebody far sure before the transfer deadline and it could be a surprise name," he said.

John Lukic continues to deputise for the England goalkeeper, David Seaman, and

Arsenal's captain, Tony Adams, having tested his damaged ankle against Tottenham on Saturday, is fit to face United, but David Platt is still out with a hamstring injury. United are likely to have Nicky Butt and David May back after injuries.

Liverpool's manager, Roy Evans, also has first-team players back in action and so faces difficult choices. With only Phil Babb ruled out, Evans said ahead of the home League match with Leeds tonight: "Our hand has never been stronger. If we can get it right our destiny,

in championship terms, is in our own hands."

The Leeds manager, George Graham, whose side went out of the FA Cup at the hands of First Division Portsmouth at Elland Road on Saturday, said: "If I dropped one player because of their form on Saturday, I would have to drop nine," he said.

Ian Rush hopes for a recall for the game at Anfield, but he expects no favours. The said: "I know my old pals will be pulling everything out to send me away with no points to show for the night's work."

Les Ferdinand is relishing a head-to-head contest with his cousin Rio as Newcastle take on struggling West Ham at Upton Park. Les is poised to face the 18-year-old centre-back for the first time in a competitive match.

West Ham are without the suspended Slaven Bilic and Marc Rieper has an ankle injury so Rio will be handed the task of keeping 17-goal Les quiet.

West Ham's new strikers, Hartson and Paul Kitson, will make their home debuts. Birmingham flotation, page 18

Erratic Henman scrapes through

Tennis

Tim Henman, the British No 1 who is battling to rediscover his best form, began the process by scrambling to 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 against Spain's Sergi Bruguera in the first round of the European Community Championship in Antwerp yesterday.

Henman, seeded sixth, appears to have lost a little confidence since his first-round defeat to Germany's Martin Sinner in the Dubai Open last week, and his backhand repeatedly let him down yesterday.

Bruguera, a wild-card entry, is ranked 47 in the world, 38 places below Henman, but he is still a class player, having twice won the French Open, in 1993 and 1994.

The British No 1 took the first set easily enough and was twice a break up in the second before Bruguera squared the match at one set all.

Then, in a third set of missed opportunities on both sides, Bruguera led 2-1 and had a break point for 3-1 in the fourth game. Henman saved it in the following rally, held his serve for 2-2 and had a break point himself in the fifth game.

His erratic backhand let him down again, however, and Bruguera hung on to his service for 3-2. Games then went with service to 4-4, before Henman gained the only break of the set in the ninth game to lead 5-4 and he served out for victory.

Reaching the final of the Qatar Open in Doha and then winning the Sydney International last month took Henman up to 14 in the world rankings.

Since then he has lost in the third round of the Australian Open and the first round in Dubai and is now down to 19.

He has also been struggling slightly with a groin injury, a legacy of too much physical work in the past few weeks as he tries to build up his strength.

"I wasn't able to finish the job off and that's where I probably made life difficult for myself," Henman said. "I was able to hang in there and got my opportunity in the third and was able to hang on to it. I'm pleased to come through a match like that. I needed it."

Henman, 22, now meets Mikael Tillström in the second round in what will be his first match with the Swedish player.

The top four seeds, including Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic, enter the fray today.

The British No 2, Greg Rusedski, has been forced to pull out of the ATP Tour event in Memphis because of his recent wrist trouble. The 23-year-old, who hurt his left wrist during the final - which he conceded - against the world No 1, Pete Sampras, in San Jose on Sunday, saw a specialist in Los Angeles yesterday and was advised to withdraw.

Bjorn Borg and John McEnroe will renew their rivalry in London this year - not at Wimbledon but at the Royal Albert Hall. The famous concert hall will be the venue for the season-ending event of Europe's ATP Senior Tour of Champions from 5 to 8 December.

Jones signs up as County go head again

Anyone would think Stockport County were not ready for the big time. When they met Southampton in the quarter-finals of the Coca-Cola Cup last month, the club's souvenir shop was shut while lager had ceased to flow in the bar. The great refuge of the cock-up, technical problems, were blamed.

After waiting 114 years to progress to the latter stages of a major competition, you would have expected them to be threatened to find the progress of their excellent side. Skilful and keen to play the ball through the midfield rather than just hoof it in the direction of the lanky Brett Angell, they are a credit to their manager and a Second Division that is producing more than its fair share of cock-shocks this season.

But even Wrexham and Chesterfield would acknowledge the greater conquests of Stockport, with wins at Blackburn and Southampton and another over

moured to be interested in tempting him to fill the vacancy at Boundary Park. It will come as a relief to the Stockport supporters, that after two years in charge at Edgeley Park without a contract, Jones finally signed a three-year deal yesterday after protracted talks with his chairman, Brendan Ellwood.

This, it is hoped, will end the uncertainty which had threatened to hinder the progress of an excellent side. Skilful and keen to play the ball through the midfield rather than just hoof it in the direction of the lanky Brett Angell, they are a credit to their manager and a Second Division that is producing more than its fair share of cock-shocks this season.

But even Wrexham and Chesterfield would acknowledge the greater conquests of Stockport, with wins at Blackburn and Southampton and another over

Guy Hodgson talks to the motivator of Stockport, who tackle Middlesbrough in tonight's Coca-Cola Cup semi-finals

West Ham at Edgeley Park. The team that Jones has built on top of the solid foundations left by Danny Bergara has produced extravagant results on meagre resources.

The club's record signing and captain, Mike Flynn, cost £150,000, which is less than a month's wages for Fabrizio Ravanelli, whom he will be marking tonight. Yet if any set of giant-killers came swaggering in against Premiership leviathans with little reason to be underestimated, it is County.

"We have shown against Blackburn, West Ham and Southampton that we can match Premiership teams," Jones said, "and we certainly won't be going out against Middlesbrough

with any fear. Anyone saying we were lucky in those previous matches is talking rubbish. There was no luck in it."

There was not much fortune, either, in Jones' playing career, which halted prematurely due to injury. Now 40, he was a defender with Everton in the 1970s when the "School of Science" was going through a less academic period but he had sufficient class to win an England Under-21 cap and played in the League Cup final of 1977. He moved to Coventry City two years later and then on to Preston North End, where his League days ended in 1984 at the age of 28.

From there he took a route into management that is rarely

used these days, non-League football, having spells with Morecambe, Southport and Mossley. Even when he joined Stockport as youth-team coach the season they were promoted from the old Fourth Division, 1990-91, the chances of becoming manager seemed remote.

Yet as the club's profile rose with four visits to Wembley - twice in the play-offs and twice in the Autoglass Shield - so did Jones. He became first-team coach, then assistant manager, and, when Bergara's tempestuous relationship with Ellwood ended, allegedly, in fistfights, he took over in March 1995.

It was an unplanned path and all done without a contract, of course - "I was ready to leave Stockport if I'd got a better offer even a month before Danny left" - and one that looked likely to reach a cul-de-sac as recently as last September when Stockport had two points from

six matches. Then the suspicion was that talk of "consolidation" the previous year had been to mask a decline, and Jones' job was in jeopardy.

"We had a shake-up, left a few players out," Jones said. "All I ask for is three things: ability, commitment and the right attitude. I was getting them one or two at a time, we were not putting them all together."

Some of it must have hit home because County are fifth in their division after losing just four League matches since and, also through to the northern semi-finals of the Auto Windscreens Shield.

"Tonight Wembley is going to be easy, but I think we can beat them," Jones said. If they can bridge the chasm between the Second Division and the Premiership again, he might just wish he had waited a while and asked for a better deal from



Jones: Three-year deal

Ellwood. However, last night he said: "I am more than happy to stay at Stockport, and it wasn't just a matter of money."

"Obviously, you are going to have speculation if a contract remains unsigned, but there was just a minor detail to sort out, and it has been," For that, everyone at Edgeley Park should be most grateful.

SPORTING DIGEST

White rediscovers his form

Snooker

Jimmy White took another step on the road to recovery with an encouraging victory over Dave Finbow at the International Open in Aberdeen last night.

The six-times World Championship runner-up arrived in Scotland without a win since last April, having lost 12 consecutive matches. But an opening victory over Dublin's Michael Judge stopped that sequence and yesterday's 5-1 second-round success was more like the White of old.

"I am still a bit green when it comes to winning," said the 34-year-old White. "However,

it's great to be playing on the match table instead of the practice table."

"I am quite close to feeling really comfortable out there. But sometimes your reputation can work against you. Players tend to raise their games because of who I am. I know, though, I should be experienced enough to cope with that."

Ronnie O'Sullivan joined White in the third round. O'Sullivan had been severely critical of his opening performance and the hangover seemed to remain as Stuart Pettman, the world No 89, took a 3-1 interval lead. But O'Sullivan stepped up a gear on the resumption to complete a 5-3 victory.

American football

The London Monarchs have made defensive and Ben Williams their top pick in the World League of American Football's annual draft, which was held at the Tampa Bay Buccaneers at the start of the 1996 season.

Athletics

INTERNATIONAL INDOOR MEETING (Moscow) Selected: Men 60m: 1.0 Ewain (Hague) 7.05sec; 2. P. G. (Hague) 7.10; 3. R. (Hague) 7.17; 200m: 1.0 Ewain (Hague) 21.28sec; 2. P. G. (Hague) 21.57; 3. D. (Hague) 21.58; 400m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 1.30; 2. J. (Hague) 1.31; 3. A. (Hague) 1.32; 800m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 2.00; 2. H. (Hague) 2.01; 3. N. (Hague) 2.02; 1000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 2.34; 2. S. (Hague) 2.35; 3. D. (Hague) 2.36; 1500m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 4.00; 2. S. (Hague) 4.01; 3. D. (Hague) 4.02; 2000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 5.30; 2. S. (Hague) 5.31; 3. D. (Hague) 5.32; 3000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 8.00; 2. S. (Hague) 8.01; 3. D. (Hague) 8.02; 4000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 11.00; 2. S. (Hague) 11.01; 3. D. (Hague) 11.02; 5000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 16.00; 2. S. (Hague) 16.01; 3. D. (Hague) 16.02; 6000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 20.00; 2. S. (Hague) 20.01; 3. D. (Hague) 20.02; 8000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 26.00; 2. S. (Hague) 26.01; 3. D. (Hague) 26.02; 10000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 34.00; 2. S. (Hague) 34.01; 3. D. (Hague) 34.02; 12000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 42.00; 2. S. (Hague) 42.01; 3. D. (Hague) 42.02; 15000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 54.00; 2. S. (Hague) 54.01; 3. D. (Hague) 54.02; 20000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 70.00; 2. S. (Hague) 70.01; 3. D. (Hague) 70.02; 25000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 88.00; 2. S. (Hague) 88.01; 3. D. (Hague) 88.02; 30000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 110.00; 2. S. (Hague) 110.01; 3. D. (Hague) 110.02; 35000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 140.00; 2. S. (Hague) 140.01; 3. D. (Hague) 140.02; 40000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 180.00; 2. S. (Hague) 180.01; 3. D. (Hague) 180.02; 45000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 230.00; 2. S. (Hague) 230.01; 3. D. (Hague) 230.02; 50000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 300.00; 2. S. (Hague) 300.01; 3. D. (Hague) 300.02; 55000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 390.00; 2. S. (Hague) 390.01; 3. D. (Hague) 390.02; 60000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 500.00; 2. S. (Hague) 500.01; 3. D. (Hague) 500.02; 65000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 630.00; 2. S. (Hague) 630.01; 3. D. (Hague) 630.02; 70000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 780.00; 2. S. (Hague) 780.01; 3. D. (Hague) 780.02; 75000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 950.00; 2. S. (Hague) 950.01; 3. D. (Hague) 950.02; 80000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 1150.00; 2. S. (Hague) 1150.01; 3. D. (Hague) 1150.02; 85000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 1380.00; 2. S. (Hague) 1380.01; 3. D. (Hague) 1380.02; 90000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 1650.00; 2. S. (Hague) 1650.01; 3. D. (Hague) 1650.02; 95000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 2000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 2000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 2000.02; 100000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 2500.00; 2. S. (Hague) 2500.01; 3. D. (Hague) 2500.02; 105000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 3100.00; 2. S. (Hague) 3100.01; 3. D. (Hague) 3100.02; 110000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 3800.00; 2. S. (Hague) 3800.01; 3. D. (Hague) 3800.02; 115000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 4700.00; 2. S. (Hague) 4700.01; 3. D. (Hague) 4700.02; 120000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 5800.00; 2. S. (Hague) 5800.01; 3. D. (Hague) 5800.02; 125000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 7100.00; 2. S. (Hague) 7100.01; 3. D. (Hague) 7100.02; 130000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 8700.00; 2. S. (Hague) 8700.01; 3. D. (Hague) 8700.02; 135000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 10500.00; 2. S. (Hague) 10500.01; 3. D. (Hague) 10500.02; 140000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 12600.00; 2. S. (Hague) 12600.01; 3. D. (Hague) 12600.02; 145000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 15000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 15000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 15000.02; 150000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 17700.00; 2. S. (Hague) 17700.01; 3. D. (Hague) 17700.02; 155000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 21000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 21000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 21000.02; 160000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 25000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 25000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 25000.02; 165000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 30000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 30000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 30000.02; 170000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 36000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 36000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 36000.02; 175000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 44000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 44000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 44000.02; 180000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 54000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 54000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 54000.02; 185000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 66000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 66000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 66000.02; 190000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 80000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 80000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 80000.02; 195000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 97000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 97000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 97000.02; 200000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 118000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 118000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 118000.02; 205000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 143000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 143000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 143000.02; 210000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 173000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 173000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 173000.02; 215000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 210000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 210000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 210000.02; 220000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 255000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 255000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 255000.02; 225000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 308000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 308000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 308000.02; 230000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 370000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 370000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 370000.02; 235000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 445000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 445000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 445000.02; 240000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 535000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 535000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 535000.02; 245000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 640000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 640000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 640000.02; 250000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 765000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 765000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 765000.02; 255000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 910000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 910000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 910000.02; 260000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 1080000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 1080000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 1080000.02; 265000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 1280000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 1280000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 1280000.02; 270000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 1510000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 1510000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 1510000.02; 275000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 1780000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 1780000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 1780000.02; 280000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 2100000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 2100000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 2100000.02; 285000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 2480000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 2480000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 2480000.02; 290000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 2950000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 2950000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 2950000.02; 295000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 3500000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 3500000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 3500000.02; 300000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 4150000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 4150000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 4150000.02; 305000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 4950000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 4950000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 4950000.02; 310000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 5900000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 5900000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 5900000.02; 315000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 7050000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 7050000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 7050000.02; 320000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 8450000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 8450000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 8450000.02; 325000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 10150000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 10150000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 10150000.02; 330000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 12200000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 12200000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 12200000.02; 335000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 14650000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 14650000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 14650000.02; 340000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 17550000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 17550000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 17550000.02; 345000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 21000000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 21000000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 21000000.02; 350000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 25050000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 25050000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 25050000.02; 355000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 29800000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 29800000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 29800000.02; 360000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 35350000.00; 2. S. (Hague) 35350000.01; 3. D. (Hague) 35350000.02; 365000m: 1.0 W. (Hague) 41800000



Marathon woman
Keith Elliott on a new chapter
in Rosie Swale's story, page 22

sport

Miracle man
Guy Hodgson on the saviour of
Stockport, page 25



THIRD TEST: Crawley and Cork guide England home after mid-innings wobble despite efforts of New Zealand's teenage spinner

Atherton's monumental dig for victory

DEREK PRINGLE

reports from Christchurch
New Zealand 346 & 186
England 228 & for 307-6
England win by four wickets

History confronted them and history was forced to take a bow after Michael Atherton's team became the second England side, and only the 13th ever, to win a Test by scoring more than 300 in the last innings of the match. Although the victory spoke of a team effort, it was the monumental endeavour by the England captain, who added a century to his unbeaten 94 in the first innings, which engineered the win and with it the series.

It was his 11th Test hundred, and as he has been saddled with the reputation of something of a match-saver, probably his most satisfying. He was asked, soon after his epic to draw the Johannesburg Test, if he thought he would ever better the pathos and splendour of that incredible innings. "I hope so," he said. "I'd like to play a winning knock for England."

Incredibly it is only the second time England have won when he has scored a hundred, the other also coming against New Zealand, at Trent Bridge in 1994.

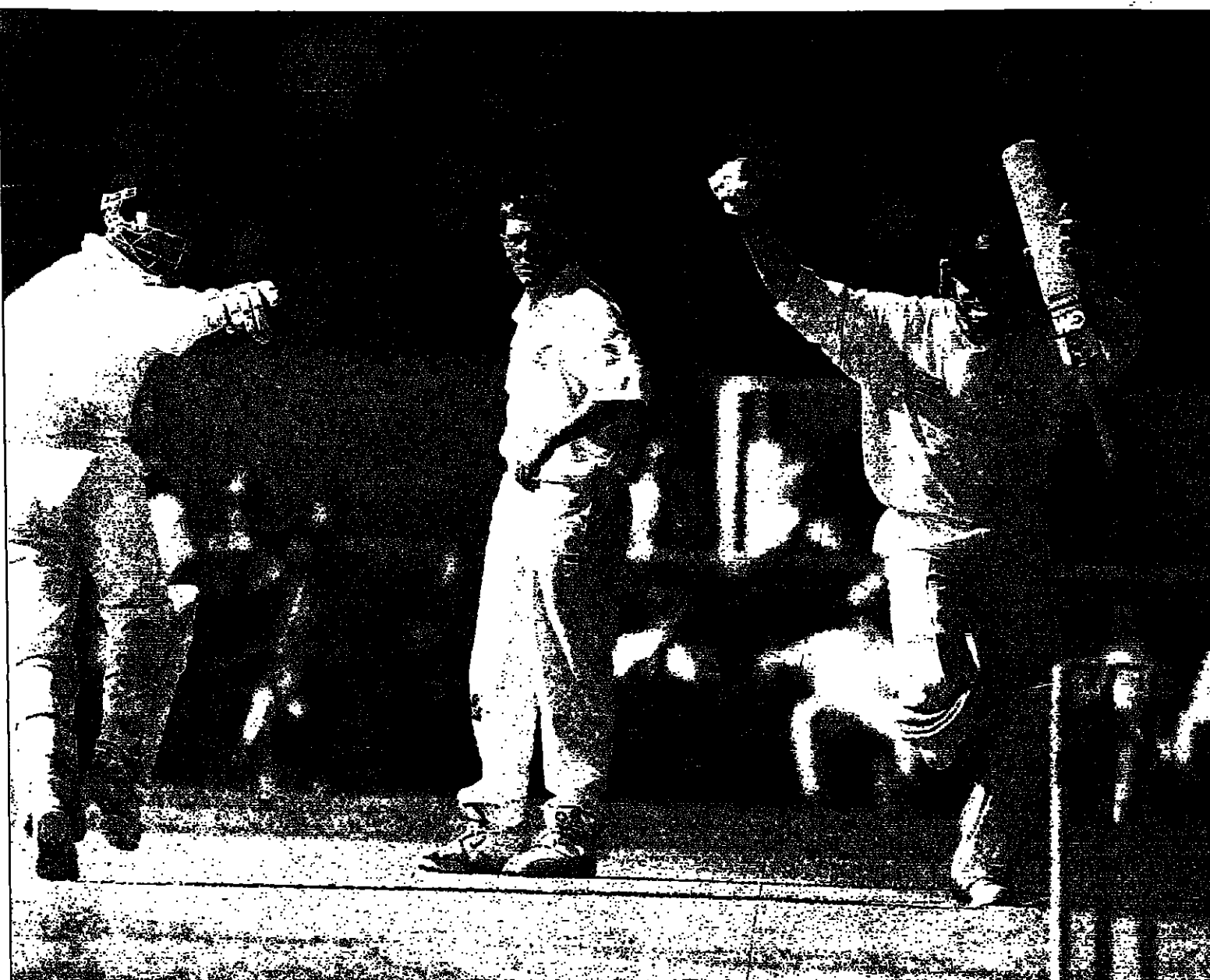
The century apart, it was the mind-boggling feat that he had spent almost 37 hours and 408 overs on the field of play before he was finally persuaded to leave. Inevitably it was fatigue, rather than any great sorcery on the part of the bowler, that finally led to his downfall as he edged wearily to the wicket-keeper.

"I admired the way he went about his job," Steve Rixon, New Zealand's Australian coach, said. "He was probably the difference." However, when asked whether Atherton should be given the England captaincy for the Ashes, Rixon smirked and said: "I'd give him anything he wants tonight. He deserves it."

He is right, and rarely has an England captain's contribution towards victory been so momentous. In fact, only Graham Gooch's monolithic century against the West Indies at Headingley in 1991, stands higher in the post-war pantheon of great captain's innings. But if quality of life is the book in Atherton's hand - currently *Fly Fishing in the West Country* by Ann Voss-Bark - then this surely must come pretty close?

"I'm very pleased," he said when later asked what it was like to experience a series win abroad, the first since the equivalent tour here five years ago. "I thought it was a strong performance today. I've been pleased with the way we've played throughout this series. To win 2-0 is fairly convincing and considering we came very close to winning in Auckland, it was probably deserved."

England have certainly been resilient and in two of the three



John Crawley (left) and Dominic Cork (right) begin England's victory celebrations at Christchurch yesterday

Photograph: Graham Chadwick/Allsport

Tests (here and in Auckland) they have reversed unpromising situations brought about by their lack of consistency with bat and ball.

When the final day's play began, they needed 187 runs to win and although with eight wickets standing, Ladbrokes had made them 4-7 favourites, it was still a daunting task considering that about half the day's overs were likely to be bowled by Daniel Vettori into the rough outside leg stump.

Rough or not, the 18-year-old spinner has been a revelation and if he tired towards the end of his 57 overs, his duels with Atherton - the Cambridge swot versus the bespectacled teenager who looks like one - were enthralling.

It is what Test cricket is all about, and why, no matter how much razzmatazz is added, one-day cricket can never hope to come close to capturing cricket's real essence: namely the ebb and flow of protracted personal battles.

England began with the plan of gaining valuable early momentum by using the night-watchman, Andrew Caddick, to

play some shots. In a way, it only half-worked with Caddick scoring 15. And yet how different the day might have turned out, had New Zealand been given his wicket 28 runs earlier, before he had scored.

Pushing forward to the first ball of Vettori's second over of the day, Caddick somehow managed to jam the ball between bat and pad. Sensing an opportunity, Fleming, at silly point, began to move in only to see the ball suddenly drop down. He dived in and caught the ball as it bounced off Caddick's toe.

Technically Caddick was out, but with umpire Daryl Hair unsighted, few expected the batsman to be given out. However, according to Fleming, Hair told him the ball was dead as it had lodged fast: a rule that is only meant to apply when the ball gets stuck in clothing or the top of the pad.

If New Zealand cursed their poor luck on that occasion the balance tilted their way when England lost three wickets in 16 balls, two of them to the persevering Vettori.

The first to depart was the

marathon man himself, who after the ultimate exhibition in Test match application, fell to a crude one-day shot, as he tried to run Astle's gentle medium-pace down to third man. It was the wicket New Zealand had wanted and it lifted their spirits.

Excitement soon turned to delirium when Hussain, having shared an 80-run partnership with his captain, followed four balls later, as Vettori got one to kick out of the rough, via both knee and glove, before nestling in Fleming's hands at silly point.

When Graham Thorpe was out soon after, tamely chipping a return catch to give Vettori his fourth wicket of the innings, England were 231 for 6, needing another 74 for victory, and looking like going belly up. That they did not was largely due to the two measured innings played by John

Crawley and Dominic Cork, who finished unbeaten on 40 and 39 respectively.

Over his short career, Cork has been something of a hot-headed disappointment with the bat, but with Crawley to nag him, he played one of his most mature Test innings to date. He probably counteracted Vettori better than anyone, and after Atherton's precise skirmishes with the bowler, that is high praise indeed. No praise is high enough for the strapping Vettori, however, whose 4 for 97 was something special to behold.

In the Test match here five years ago, it was Vettori's hero, Phil Tufnell, who managed to bowl England to victory in quite amazing circumstances. This time it was so nearly Vettori. Let us hope for New Zealand cricket's sake, that is where the coincidences end.

Lamb non-committal on captaincy

Tim Lamb, the chief executive of the English Cricket Board, dismissed talk of Mike Atherton being named captain for the Ashes series as premature.

Lamb praised Atherton for his performance in Christchurch but refused to commit himself to supporting him for the skipper's role. "I think Mike has shown his resilience and has obviously regained his form with that tremendous performance in Christchurch," Lamb said.

"But there are five international matches on the tour. It is a little premature to be taking a decision on the captain for the summer series."

England's assistant coach, John Emburey, though, believes that Atherton has proved there is no better man to face Australia. "He's got to captain the side against Australia," he said. "Even if we had drawn or lost today I would hope that he will still have captained the side."

According to England's coach, David Lloyd, his New Zealand counterpart, Steve Rixon, made a bad error by telling reporters on the fourth evening that England's players might not be able to handle the pressure.

"Steve Rixon is a lovely chap but he gave us a terrific spur by saying that we couldn't play under pressure," Lloyd said. "I needed to say nothing else than that to the lads before we started the final day."

Slow march into pages of history

Andy Farrell waited for the answer to a day of enthralling mystery in Christchurch

As any good Test match should, this Christchurch epic posed ever more intriguing questions as the days went on. Come breakfast on the fifth morning and no one knew what to think, not even at the appropriately named Hambledon Guest House.

The building dates back to 1856, marginally longer than England have been playing Test cricket. In 732 previous matches, the tourists had only once passed 300 in the fourth innings to win, a staggering thought. History would be made this day.

Possibly by Daniel Vettori. Could the 18-year-old left-arm spinner, such a dominant figure in only his second Test, really bowl his side to victory? There he was from the start of the day, over the wicket into the rough, outside leg stump. Ball after ball. Remix the video and you could have an aid for insomniacs, but here it was gripping edge-of-the-seat stuff.

Stephen Fleming claimed a catch off Andrew Caddick's boot, but his appeal was turned down. Umpire Darrell Hair countered that the ball was dead. It was as alive as the match. Caddick swung Vettori for a huge six - was the spell broken?

How would Fleming, New Zealand's youngest-ever captain, cope on this day? He removed himself as the only slip and went to short midwicket. Caddick swung Heath Davis's next ball his way. Three down. Nasser Hussain joined Mike Atherton.

As so often, so much seemed to rest with the England captain. Everyone - the crowd, the Kiwis, his team-mates and Atherton himself - seemed to concur. Early on he flashed at Davis and great was the chastisement. The feet were moving, the shot selection, mostly, perfect.

If Johannesburg was Atherton's innings, Christchurch was Atherton's match. In the unbeaten first innings, his pulling and hooking returned. Now his driving was sublime. Fleming took the new ball and the runs flowed.

Atherton sent Geoff Allott through the covers for four, then backward of point for three. Against Simon Doull, he clipped off his legs for two, drove square to the boundary and straight for three and his eleventh Test hundred.

Lunch at 203 for 3, 102 to get. Nerves calmed, but need a walk before ingesting. Forty minutes later and the beef and tomato sandwich is spinning in the stomach.

Atherton gone to the demon snarer, Nathan Astle. Hussain done out of the rough, via a glove, by Vettori. Graham Thorpe dancing down the pitch and popping his first ball from the spinner straight back.

"They won't get there now," someone moaned. Six gone for 231, 74 still needed. John Crawley and Dominic Cork both new to the middle. Slow progress. Silence, even the Barmy Army wondering and waiting. Astle and Vettori applying the strangle. Tea and 257 the total. 48 needed.

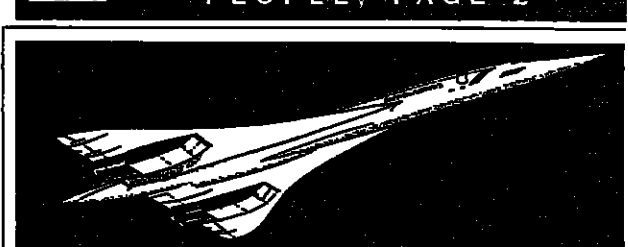
First over back and Cork confident growing again. The boundary found more regularly. Vettori, having bowled 34 out of 36 overs at the northern end, finally takes a break and earns a warm appreciation. Two men high on one of the floodlight pylons, but neither was David Lloyd or Steve Rixon, the respective coaches.

Less than 30 needed now, the Barmy Army find their voice again. Still tense, but surely now? The 300 up with a back-foot drive from Crawley, then Cork squeezing Allott to square leg for victory. Two in a row, our cup flows over. "The Ashes are coming home," sang the Barmy Army.

The Australians may not have let England escape after their poor first two days, but Atherton, the man of the match, seemed determined for the series, and the efforts of the winter, not to be squandered.

Of the England skipper, Rixon said: "The way he went about his job was a personal inspiration. I admire that." Him and all of us.

PHIL TUFNELL UNDER A CLOUD IN NEW ZEALAND
PEOPLE, PAGE 2



TORONTO WITH NIAGARA

BA 747 from Heathrow to Toronto on 22 May, 10 July, 6 August, 29 August or 6 September • five nights at the deluxe Sheraton • city tour • Niagara with helicopter • harbour cruise • CN Tower luncheon • Phantom of the Opera • Concorde supersonic return £1,999

MONACO GRAND PRIX

Eurostar to Paris on 10 May • city tour • overnight • Concorde supersonic to Nice • luncheon and reserved seat for Monaco Grand Prix at Mirabeau Hotel • return by private jet to Heathrow £1,499

ORIANA & ORIENT-EXPRESS

Concorde to Tenerife on 12 April • seven night Oriana cruise to Southampton via Lanzarote, La Palma, Lisbon and Vigo • Orient-Express to Victoria £1,999

Orient-Express to Southampton on 27 May • five night Oriana cruise to Monte-Carlo via Gibraltar • tour Riviera • Concorde supersonic from Nice £1,699

Orient-Express to Southampton on 8 June • eleven night Oriana Land of the Midnight Sun cruise to Bergen via the Norwegian Fjords and Spitsbergen • Concorde supersonic to Heathrow £2,999

Concorde supersonic from Heathrow to Bergen on 19 June • two night Oriana cruise to Southampton • Orient-Express to Victoria £1,299

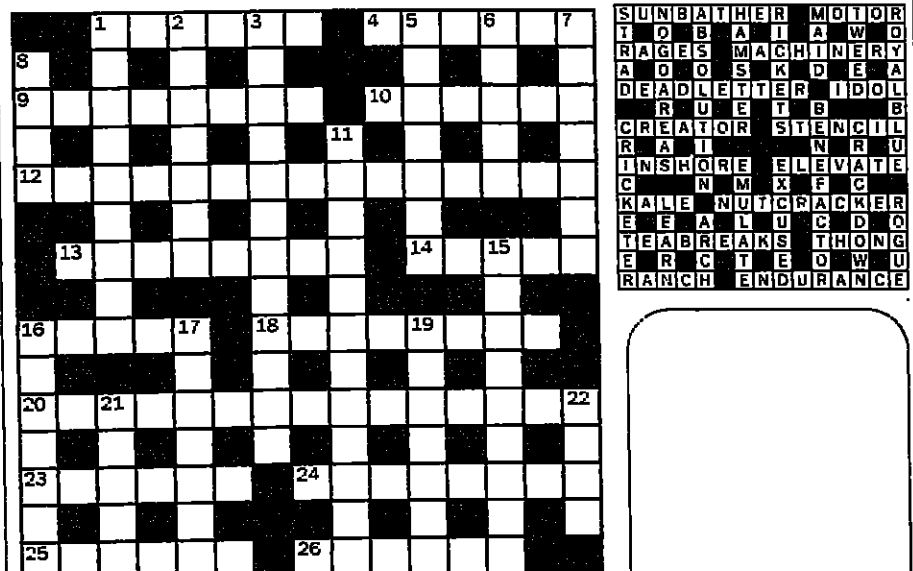
Orient-Express to Southampton on 16 August • six night Oriana cruise to Tenerife via Praia da Rocha and Casablanca • Concorde to Heathrow £1,799

For our full colour brochure, please telephone: 0181-992 7000 or write to SUPERLATIVE TRAVEL

43, Woodhurst Road, London, W3 6SS

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3326, Wednesday 19 February By Aquila Tuesday's Solution



- ACROSS**
- Source of stability for Charon on the move (6)
 - Bible book, we hear (6)
 - Sheep, these days, in seagiving environment? (8)
 - Valedictions from Aie, due for overhaul (6)
 - Remote duagcon? Have no part of it! (4,2,1,8)
 - Home counties bowman - or one found in Hunts, say? (8)
 - Rent is low in Adriatic port (5)
 - Early invaders, just settling around the east... (5)
 - ... wild obese lot, outmoded now? (8)
 - Figure of Euclid recalling a tense permutation (7,8)
 - Liable to change? (6)
 - Tonics for musicians (8)
 - Nervous about fall? It's the wine! (6)
 - Bird living behind Henry Cross? (6)
- DOWN**
- Understanding covenant? (9)
 - Throastian horseman, say (7)
 - Cocktail for the square (3-9)
 - Renews flying times (7)
 - Place for putting young? (5)
 - Most seductive east exists in turbulence (7)
 - Aftemoon out, presumably, for running so frenziedly? (4)
 - McGuire sorry about minute cuts in theatres (12)
 - Went to court and threw light on one kept on campus (9)
 - Jolts clumsily with two points of elbows (7)
 - Spreading tales, right and left, about the stars (7)
 - Lingfield's first winner is an apprentice? (7)
 - Town in Cumbria with no sidewalk, say? (5)
 - Rest in peace! (4)

Christchurch scoreboard

England won toss	NEW ZEALAND - First Innings 346 (S P Fleming 62, A C Pearce 59, C L Curre 57, R D Cork 5-96)	ENGLAND - First Innings 228 (M A Atherton 94)	NEW ZEALAND - Second Innings 186 (C L Curre 52)	ENGLAND - Second Innings 307 (M A Atherton 94, P Curre 57, R D Cork 5-96)
England 346 & 186	England 346 & 186	England 346 & 186	England 346 & 186	England 346 & 186

Oxford's unlikely Italian job

The European elite have long sent their most gifted young men to Oxford to finish their learning - but the practice could be about to assume an unusual dimension.

According to the Nationwide Football League First Division club, Oxford United, Juventus, the European Cup holders, have had discussions about loaning them some of their most promising young players. However, Juventus officials are doing their best to play down the story.

"It is very exciting," said Robin Herd, the Oxford chairman. "They are not just going to send us players. Juventus have managed to combine the traditional technical brilliance of the Continentals with the

Glenn Moore hears a strange tale of mighty Juventus and a humble English First Division club

power and pace of the British game. They will be showing us how to do it. Manchester United have undertaken something similar, with their coaching staff going to Turin to see how they do things. We are hoping to take it one step further."

The club's general manager, Ian Davies, was more circumspect, saying: "At the moment it's still talk about talks."

Motor racing is the link in this unlikely deal. Having been in-

involved in IndyCar racing and the March team, Herd is a well-known figure in the world of Formula One. Much of that, including the Italian Benetton team, is based in Oxfordshire. Juventus, like Ferrari, is part of the Agnelli family empire.

Herd stressed: "Juventus don't want any financial influence. They don't want to interfere in any way with the running of Oxford United." The Italians were less keen to commit themselves, though.

Two Juventus directors visited the Manor Ground on 2 February and spoke informally to Oxford officials - but that, it seems, is as far as it went. A Juventus spokesman, Daniele Boaglio, said yesterday: "It's all wild imagination."

Published by Newspaper Publishing PLC, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 3DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Albans Road, Watford. Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 01988 841370. Registered at a newspaper with the Post Office.

كلنا من الاصل